

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



No. 721.—VOL. XXV.]

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1854.

[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, SIXPENCE.]

THE OLD AND THE NEW YEAR.

To those who review the past, and endeavour to calculate the chances and probabilities of the future, the last day of an expiring year is a natural standing point. It is a bridge over the stream of Time, from which the observer looks upwards and downwards, and draws what warning or encouragement he may, either to guide him in his own individual course, or, if he be a teacher of the people, to point the moral of contemporary history. This task has often been performed by journalists, by statesmen, and by divines; but seldom within the memory of living men has there been an occasion so momentous or remarkable as the close of the year 1854 for the lessons which it may inculcate. It stands boldly out from the peaceful winters which preceded it, and marks an epoch in the fortunes of mankind.

This memorable year began amid perils and perplexities of no ordinary kind. The rumblings of the distant thunder were heard, and the first faint tremors of the approaching earthquake were plainly perceptible. Like all great political and historical events, those which have signalled the year now verging to its last moments, had their origin in remote antiquity. Every event is the child of Eternity; and the greedy ambition of the Emperor Nicholas, which has thrown the world into turmoil and exasperation, dates from causes long anterior to his existence, and of which he is but the instrument, and not the master. Without going too far back to search for the origin of the great European war of 1854, we may find it in events which at first sight may appear to have had little to do with it. This struggle, long foreseen and ardently deprecated—a struggle of which no man can foretell the issue, but of which all have felt, or will feel, the inevitable pressure—partakes of the religious, as well as of the political, element. Though religion may be no more than the cloak with which the Czar attempts to conceal one of the vilest acts of political wickedness that was ever attempted, religious feelings in parts of Europe, where he has neither sympathy nor control, acted upon the minds of men, and induced a state of excitement which stirred the loose-lying embers of political convulsion, and fanned them into a blaze. Nicholas, the great chief and firebrand of the Greek Church, was preceded in revolutionary acts by Pius IX., the great firebrand and chief of the Church of Rome.

To the present Pope—the most mischievous, though doubtless well-meaning enthusiast who ever wore the tiara or the crown—Europe owes the period of revolutions which commenced in 1848, from which have been gradually, and of necessity evolved, all the great events of succeeding years—reaching their climax in the attempt of the Czar to dismember and appropriate the Turkish empire. The Papacy was becoming obsolete, and losing its hold on the affections of Roman Catholics, when, in an evil hour for the peace of the world, Pio Nono, then newly elected to the Papal throne, announced himself as a reforming Pope—the friend of Liberty, of Progress, and of Civilisation. Everyone knows what followed. The fierce democracy of Continental Europe—caring little for the Roman Catholic faith, and still less for the Papacy or the Pope—welcomed the new and unexpected ally. The French were the first to take fire; and Hungary, Italy, and Germany were speedily involved in the conflagration. The Pope himself was not spared by the demon of insurrection which he had so recklessly evoked; and thrones tottered, and crowns and sceptres were dragged through the dirt in almost every part of Europe, except in free England and enslaved Russia—the two opposite poles of the European system. The head of the Romish Church had no sooner done the mischief, than the head of the Greek Church stepped in to profit by it. He announced himself as the great conservator, and friend of law and order; and threw over Austria and Germany the fatal aegis of his protection. As early in the story as September, 1849, when, after the defeat of Kossuth by Russian aid, that chief fled, with some of his compatriots and coadjutors, and took refuge in the Turkish territory, the Czar—scenting the quarry afar off—declared that he would immediately consider it a *casus belli* if the Sultan did not instantly and unconditionally surrender the fugitives. The Sultan, in this dilemma, threw himself upon the advice and assistance of Great Britain and France. Both Powers were firm in their determination to support the Turks. They nipped the evil in the bud by their unhesitating boldness and decision. Thanks to Sir Stratford Canning and General Aupick, in Constantinople, to Louis Napoleon in Paris, and to Lord Palmerston in London, the Czar found it wise to recede; and war, otherwise inevitable, was adjourned to a future period. But the unfortunate religious element was still at the bottom of impending mischief. Louis

Napoleon, wishing to strengthen himself by the support of the Roman Catholic clergy of France, urged inopportunistically a dormant and valueless claim of the ancient Sovereigns of France for the protection of the Roman Catholic Christians in the Sultan's dominions; and once more the Czar came forward as the chief of a Religion—as a Pope as well as an Emperor—and urged, with scarcely-concealed ambition for secular dominion and authority, his claims to the religious protectorate of more than one-half of the European subjects of the Sultan. Had as much vigour been displayed in 1863 as was shown by France and England in 1849, the Czar might once again have been baffled and driven back. But this was not done, and when the year 1854 first dawned upon the world, it was easy to foresee that war was inevitable.

For nine months it has now raged with more or less intensity; and 1855 will not have numbered many weeks, or even days, before Powers who are not yet parties to it will be drawn into its vortex. It has already inflicted incalculable damage, and has cost Great Britain and France the blood of some of their bravest and noblest sons, and filled thousands of households with mourning and lamentation. But manifold as are the miseries of war, its results are not all evil. Vulgar and common-place orators, who find it easy to declaim upon the horrors of the battle-field, are often unable to render justice to its glories, its self-devotion, its manly virtues, and its disinterested heroism. The war has already exalted the national character, both of France and Great Britain. It has elevated the popular mind into the higher atmosphere of justice and truth. It has excited generosity of sentiment, and cemented, by community of peril and exertion, the friendship of two nations who, united, can set the hostility of the world at defiance, and be the guardians and preservers of Liberty and Civilisation.

Thus the year 1855 opens more auspiciously than its predecessor. If it have faults and errors to look back upon, there are no defeats to cast a shadow over its promise. The victories of the past are incentives to greater victories in the future. Every day the disturber of the peace of Europe finds himself in a state of greater isolation. His friends drop off; his allies shun the danger of his countenance; and monarchs, slowly coming to the wise conclusions which the instinct of the people discovered at a far earlier period, are ranking themselves, with their subjects, among the number of those who not only approve, but will fight for, the



HEAD-QUARTERS OF LORD RAGLAN, NEAR BALACLAVA.—FROM A SKETCH BY LIEUTENANT MONTAGU O'REILLY.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

objects avowed by France, England, and—we may now add—Austria.

It may seem over-sanguine to predict that the year 1855 will witness the conclusion of so long prepared and obstinate a struggle as that which commenced in 1854. But, at all events, it is not unreasonable to hope so. Should the wish be realised, a mighty good will have sprung from a formidable evil. But, whether the war ends in 1855, or is continued through many dark and troublous years, the Allied Governments and the Allied Nations will not "abate one jot of heart or hope." They will spare no effort to conquer Peace. Peace negotiated, and not conquered, would be unstable. To endure, it must be founded upon the coercion of an offender who scorns treaties and breaks them when he pleases. Such a peace, with the blessing of Heaven, the Allied Powers will yet secure to Europe.

LORD RAGLAN'S HEAD-QUARTERS.

UPON the preceding page we have engraved, from a Sketch by Lieut. Montagu O'Reilly, a near view of the Head-quarters of Lord Raglan, not far from Balaklava. The house is a long building, of the villa and farm-house description, partly covered with vines, which are very luxuriant in the Crimea. Tents are pitched in the adjoining grounds; and on the right of the picture is stationed the British flag.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

The *Jour de l'An*—that fête of all the fêtes of the year, most dear to Parisian hearts and Parisian stomachs—and we must add, by way of counterbalance, to Parisian pockets—once more comes round, with its *étrennes* and its *bonbons*, and its visits, and its gaieties of all sorts and kinds; for, even though the state of affairs renders gaiety in general but little the order of the day, still, to greet the New Year warmly, everybody feels more or less disposed; or, if they don't, *il faut faire semblant*, for that reason which has paramount importance in French society—*il faut faire comme tout le monde*! What chapters we could write on the exercise of this axiom; but, all things in their place. It appears as if, in the lull that Eastern affairs have caused in commerce here, all the *fabricants* had been employing their ingenuity in the invention and execution of those thousand creations of art and fancy that constitute one of the great features of the manufactures of this capital. Giroux, in his new shop on the Boulevard—whose walls are not yet dry, and whose windows are hardly glazed—Susse, Tahan, and a hundred other, more or less, important caterers for the taste of the *Jour de l'An* public, display a variety and brilliancy in their stocks that have seldom been equalled. The *bonbon* manufacturers have been no less active. Marquis, the celebrated *chocolatier*, has a choice of these delicacies hardly to be imagined; Boissier, Bertrand, and Masson, stand up in rivalry; and all the shops of these celebrities of commerce are crammed from morning to night with crowds of buyers and gazers: those who can afford it come to possess; those who can't, to desire the possession of these tempting butterfly things that look so brilliant and beautiful now, and that if, by chance, they live to see the light, or, more properly, the fog of next New-year's day, will bear such a dusty, dingy, tawdry, slippery aspect. One of the new and characteristic features of this year's *étrennes* is the appearance of the children's toys, which all bear a warlike and an oriental type. Every nursery is becoming a miniature Constantinople, Sebastopol, or Balaklava; as if the instincts of children were not already despotic and destructive enough!

As we have already stated, it is the intention of their Majesties to give the utmost impulsion to the fêtes of the winter. *Apropos* of this fact, we may cite a trait of the first Emperor, not a little characteristic of himself and his time:—Walking alone in the Faubourg St. Antoine (the chief manufacturing quarter of Paris), and conversing as was his wont with some of the *fabricants*, he learned from them the paralyzing effect of the war on the different branches of their commerce. On returning to the palace, he demanded a list of the senators and chief public functionaries; and forthwith caused a division to be made of all the articles of luxury that remained on the hands of the manufacturers, and the different portions to be sent, with the bills, to the residences of the different public officers, enriched by the places and honours he had accorded them.

The Emperor and Empress were among the earliest visitors to the Gymnase after the appearance of the piece of Madame Emilie de Girardin. Certain allusions in the play (perfectly inoffensive *du reste*) to the Spanish character seemed to amuse both, and they displayed throughout the utmost appreciation of the merits of this clever performance.

The reading public are anxiously hoping to obtain possession of a literary curiosity of the highest interest. It appears that two years before his death, M. de Chateaubriand, carefully reviewing the manuscript of his "Mémoires d'Outre Tombe," cut out a large number of incidents, opinions, traits, and anecdotes, which, for the very reason that they were judged too delicate, or too questionable for publicity, acquire a double interest. These pages a former secretary of the author had announced the existence of; and it is believed that, if the objections of the family of M. de Chateaubriand are not found to be an invincible barrier, they will, ere long, appear. It seems that the signature of the writer being attached sets aside all question of their genuineness.

The *Frank-Juge*, the ultra-Catholic journal, to be directed by MM. Granier de Cassagnac, Louis Veuillot, Sainte-Beuve, and Barbé d'Aureville, has, it seems, fallen to the ground—a significant symptom against the progress of the Ultramontanes.

The Obituary of last week announces the death of M. Victor Hennequin, formerly chief editor of the *Démocratie Pacifique*, and member of the *Constituante*. In the late years of his life, M. Hennequin gave himself up entirely to the study of the so-called spiritual phenomena of table-turning, rappings, &c. He composed a work, supposed to be dictated by the "Soul of the Earth," entitled "Sauvons le Genre Humain," a most singular combination of genius and absurdity. His wife, who was his sole companion and aid in the prosecution of these studies, has been for some time the inmate of a lunatic asylum. *Apropos* of the supernatural, a cart, laden with bottles, was a few days since stopped at the barrier for examination. The conductor declared that the bottles contained only water, a fact which the examination verified; the water in question was drawn from the miraculous spring of *la Salette*, lately the subject of fierce controversy in certain clerical circles; the marvellous liquid having had a no less marvellous sale in the department of Isère, commerce—with an eye to everything—*s'en mêlait*, and a dépôt was formed at Paris for the distribution, *moyennant* a certain sum of filthy lucre, of the blessed beverage; the *douaniers*, however, whose faith, it seems, is weak in miracles, seized the sainted cargo as mineral water, and we believe it yet remains in limbo at the *douane*.

The *affiches* of the Opera balls sign all the introduction, or rather revival, of an old custom—that of all the ladies (?) appearing in masks—no undress costumes, either, are to be admitted. These regulations are *de rigueur*.

A third *fauteuil* in the Academy becomes vacant by the death of the oldest member of the Institution, M. Baour-Lormian, who died at the age of eighty-eight. M. Baour-Lormian was known, during the Empire and the Restoration, as a poet, tragic author, and translator of Tasso. During the last years of his life he was blind, and so infirm, as to remain in total obscurity and retirement. MM. Pousard de Broglie, E. Legouvé, and De Falloux, are the candidates for the vacant seat.

The principal theatrical novelties are these:—"Le Muletier de Tolède," at the Théâtre Lyrique—the words by MM. Dennery and Clairville, the music by M. Adolphe Adam. The work is not *de la première force*, though there are pretty bits in it. M^{me}. Marie Cabel is, as ever charming; and the *mise en scène* is effective. "Monsieur mon Fil," at the Variétés—a sufficiently-amusing novelty; "Les Guerres d'Afrique," at the Cirque; and "Bon-soir, M. le Vicomte," at the Vaudeville—where great preparations are being made for the appearance of the "Parisiens de la Décadence," which, it is expected, will have as great a success as that of the "Filles de Marbre."

OPENING OF THE FRENCH LEGISLATIVE SESSION. THE EMPEROR'S SPEECH.

On Tuesday at one o'clock the Emperor met the members of the Senate and of the Legislative Corps at the Tuilleries, in the Salle des Maréchaux, and opened the Session of 1855 with the following Speech:—

"MESSIEURS LES SENATEURS, MESSEURS LES DEPUTES,

"Since your last meeting great facts have been accomplished. The appeal which I made to the country to defray the expense of the war, was so well understood that the results have even surpassed my hopes. Our arms have been victorious alike in the Baltic and in the Black Sea. Two great battles have conferred honour on our flag. A remarkable proof of the intimacy of our relations with England has been shown by the fact that the Parliament of that country has passed a vote of thanks to our generals and our soldiers. A great empire, renovated by the chivalrous statements of its Sovereign, has detached itself from the Power which, for forty years, has been menacing the independence of Europe. The Emperor of Austria has concluded a treaty, defensive at present, but soon, perhaps, to become offensive, which unites his cause to that of France and England.

"Thus, gentlemen, the more the war is prolonged, the greater becomes the number of our allies, and the more closely are drawn the ties already existing; and, in fact, what more solid ties can there be than the names of victories belonging to the two armies, and calling to mind their common glory; than the same disquietudes and the same hope agitating the two countries; than the same views and the same intentions animating the two Governments, on every point of the globe? And, accordingly, the alliance with England is not the effect of a temporary interest and of a policy of the moment; it is the union of two powerful nations, associated together for the triumph of the cause in which, for upwards of a century, have been engaged the interests of civilisation, their own grandeur, and the liberty of Europe. Unite, therefore, with me, on this solemn occasion, in here returning thanks, in the name of France, to the English Parliament for its cordial and warm-hearted demonstration, and to the English army and its noble leader for their valiant co-operation.

"Next year, should peace be not then re-established, I hope to have similar thanks to return to Austria, and to that Germany whose union and prosperity we so earnestly desire.

"I am happy to have to pay a just tribute of eulogium to the Army and to the Fleet, which, by their devotedness and their discipline, have, in France as in Algeria, in the north as in the south, nobly responded to my expectations.

"The Army of the East has, up to the present time, suffered everything and surmounted everything. Sickness, conflagration, tempests, privations, a fortified place unceasingly provisioned, defended by a formidable artillery by sea and by land, and two hostile armies, superior in number,—nothing has been able to weaken their courage, or diminish their impetuosity. Every man has nobly done his duty, from the Marshal, who seemed to force death to wait until he had conquered, to the soldier and the sailor, whose last cry, in expiring, was a prayer for France, an acclamation for the elected Sovereign of his country. Let us therefore declare in unison, that the Army and the Fleet have merited well of their country.

"The war, it is true, necessitates cruel sacrifice; however, everything commands me to carry it on with vigour, and for that purpose I rely on your co-operation.

"Our land army is at present composed of 581,000 men and 113,000 horses; the navy has 62,000 sailors embarked. To keep up that force is indispensable; and in order to fill up the chasms occasioned by the annual liberations of men, and by the casualties of the war, I will ask you, as I did last year, for a levy of 140,000 men. A Bill will be presented to you, having for its object to ameliorate, without augmenting the charges of the Treasury, the position of such soldiers as re-enlist. This will procure the immense advantage of increasing the number of old soldiers in the Army; and of allowing, at a later period, the weight of the conscription to be diminished. This Bill, I trust, will soon have your approbation.

"I shall ask you for authorisation to conclude a new national loan. Doubtless, this measure will increase the public debt; but let us not forget that by the conversion of the Five per Cents, the interest of that debt has been reduced by 21½ millions. My efforts have had for object to bring the expenses to a level with the receipts, and the ordinary Budget will be presented to you in *équilibre*; the resource of the loan will of itself suffice to meet the exigencies of the war.

"You will see with pleasure that our revenues have not diminished. Industrial activity does not decline, all the great works of public utility still go on, and Providence has given us a harvest which is sufficient for all our wants. The Government, nevertheless, does not close its eyes to the anxiety occasioned by the dearth of food; it has taken every measure in its power to put an end to that difficulty; and, in order to alleviate it still further, has created in many localities new elements of labour.

"The struggle which is going on, circumscribed as it is by moderation and justice, though it causes every heart to thrill, so little alarms material interests, that the various countries of the world will soon assemble here all the products of peace. Foreigners will not fail to be struck by the extraordinary spectacle of a country which, relying on Divine protection, energetically maintains a war at 600 leagues from its frontiers, and develops with the same ardour its riches at home; a country where war does not prevent agriculture and manufactures from prospering, or the arts from flourishing; and where the genius of the nation displays itself in all that can contribute to the glory of France."

ANOTHER RUSSIAN LEVY.—The Imperial ukase for a new levy of recruits throughout the eastern recruiting circumscription of the empire was issued on the 18th, and dated Gatchina. The proportion of the levy is to be in the *pro rata* of 10 men for each 1000 souls of population; or, allowing deductions of one-half for females, and one-fourth for those under and over age, 10 per 250 males fit for service, or four per cent. The Jews will furnish recruits in the same ratio. The levy is to commence upon the 15th of February, and end on the 15th of March next. Those furnishing recruits—that is, owners of serfs, municipalities, &c.—are required to pay 15 roubles 20 kopecks silver towards the equipment of each recruit. It may not be irrelevant to state that the Russian empire is divided into two grand recruiting circuits (eastern and western), each containing about 28,000,000 of population liable to furnish recruits; so that the levy, at the *pro rata* of 10 per 1000 souls gives a total of 280,000 for the forthcoming levy; and the sum to be furnished by masters, and so forth, will amount to about £420,000.

THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.

The latest telegraphic despatches from the seat of war come no further down than the 18th, at which date the condition of the Allies was described as much more comfortable than it had been. The letters and statements recently published regarding the want of clothing which prevailed in the English camp, appear to have been greatly exaggerated. Instead of the soldiers having had no winter clothing up to the middle of December, as was affirmed, it is now said that by the 2nd of this month most of the soldiers had received one portion of the new supplies, and the remainder must have arrived before this time.

On the 10th the *Coradoc* arrived at Constantinople with news that the new French and English batteries were all but completed, as also the works around the Bay of Kamiesch. Some few huts had been erected, and it was expected that a regular wooden town would soon be formed. The corps of observation under General Boquet was directly between the English lines and the Russians. The chief portion of the Russian army was at Bagtchevski, but there were powerful bodies of troops on *echelon* between that place and Inkerman. According to all accounts they were suffering much from want of provisions. Owing to the heavy rains the flat country from Perekop to Simpheropol has been reduced to a sea of mud, so that the passage of troops or supplies to the enemy will be impossible until the frost sets in. At the date of the latest accounts, however, a change was speedily expected. Severe cold would, it was thought, soon harden the deep mire, and the first fall of snow would give the signal for sledge travelling, and enable the Russian army to display as much activity as it did in preparing for the battle of the 5th ult. There is reason to believe that the third Russian *corps d'armée*, which was formerly stationed in the Principalities, and afterwards in Bessarabia, has reached the neighbourhood of Nikolaieff and Cherson, on its way to the Crimea. The wet and stormy weather, which so long inflicted severe hardships on our own troops, was an effectual barrier to the further advance of this force; but, whenever a decided change takes place, we may not improbably see a considerable addition made to the Czar's army in the field, as well as to its supplies.

Meantime the French and English armies continued to receive large reinforcements. The French expected soon to muster about 100,000 men; and the general belief was, that an assault would soon take place, if the weather was favourable.

Scientific officers who have recently returned from the Crimea to Constantinople express their firm conviction that, very shortly after the attack on Sebastopol is renewed, a part, if not the whole, must fall into the hands of the Allies. It is thought that, after a tremendous bombardment, some of the forts will be taken by storm; but this last operation would not be attempted until all the reinforcements had arrived. When the assault takes place, 410 guns (of which 130 are English) will open fire.

Nothing is yet known as to the Turkish expedition. "The landing place of Omer Pacha's army is kept profoundly secret, but it is considered certain that it will be on the north side of the fortress. A despatch, dated "Odessa, Dec. 16," says:—"Thirty thousand Turks, with a division of French and English artillery, are about to seize upon Perekop, and fortify the lines there. The Russian force is weak in numbers, and by no means well furnished." Another despatch says:—"Eight steamers have been taking soundings off Etschakoff, and it is thought the Allies will make a descent on Kinburn preparatory to an attack on Perekop."

RETREAT OF THE RUSSIANS FROM TCHERNAYA.

On the night of December 6, at twelve o'clock, there was a great stir down in the valley of Balaklava. The hoarse hum of great crowds of men was heard by the pickets, and they reported the circumstance to the officers of the French regiments on the heights. Lights were seen moving about in the redoubts occupied by the Russians since the affair of the 25th October. It was supposed that the enemy had received reinforcements or were about to make a dash at our position before Balaklava. The Hospital Guards and the invalid battalion were at once turned out, and the French shrouded in their capotes grimly waited in the lines the first decisive movement of the enemy. The night was cold, but not clear, and after a time the noise of wheels and the tramp of men ceased, and the alarm was over. Ere morning, however, the cause of it became visible. About five o'clock a.m., an outburst of flames from the redoubts in which the Russians had huddled themselves illuminated the sky, and at the same time the fire broke out in the cottages on the slope of the hill before Komara. When morning came the smoke was seen ascending to heaven, and the Russians were visible in much-diminished numbers on the higher plateaux of the hills, near Schorgom and Komara. The faint rays of the morning sun played on the bayonets of another portion of the force as they wound up the road towards Mackenzie's Farm, and passed through the wood over the right bank of the Tchernaya. The reason of this retreat was not understood at first, but it has since been ascertained that the severity of the weather and want of shelter forced the Russians to abandon the position in the valley. The French pushed down their cavalry and seized the plain. They found dummies (mock guns) in the embasures, the Russians having carried off all their artillery, to the number of 85 pieces.

GLOOMY ASPECT OF AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA.

The latest accounts from St. Petersburg represent the state of feeling there as having become very gloomy within the last few weeks. The news of the treaty of the 2nd of December being signed had caused a great sensation in the higher circles. The Court is described as far from being in humour to enjoy the festivities of the approaching Christmas, the aristocracy did not venture to give their usually brilliant balls and entertainments, the merchants found their commerce nearly ruined, the shopkeepers had no sale for their fancy goods and articles of luxury, and the prevailing fear of coming misfortunes extended down to the very lowest classes.

The only person who seems to keep his spirits from sinking is the Emperor Nicholas. He is represented as applying himself to business more vigorously than ever, working daily for sixteen hours, sending despatches off hourly to some quarter or other of his extensive dominions; in fact, doing all that any single mortal can do to make up for the continual failures that occur from the systematic rottenness of Russian bureaucracy. Count Nesselrode is said to be in St. Petersburg, still in favour, and is cloistered with his Royal master for several hours every day. The general opinion is that a war with all Europe is inevitable, although a part of the nobles affect to believe that Austria will never be brought to draw her sword against Russia; and doubts are beginning to be seriously entertained whether it will be possible even for Prussia and the States of Germany to maintain any longer their one-sided neutrality.

The Russian accounts from the Crimea are anything but encouraging. The army is decimated by disease, provisions are getting short, and in the present state of the roads, there is no mode of sending supplies. Great fears were entertained that Sebastopol would not be able to hold out much longer; and Menschikoff's flaming despatches, with his poetical description of brilliant attacks and successful sorties, failed to inspire general belief any longer.

It was said that the Emperor had sent for the venerable Field-Marshal Paskiewitch from Warsaw to consult with him on the best means of defending the frontiers on the Austrian line, and to concert measures for certain contingencies that may be shortly expected in that quarter.

That the nobility and mercantile classes devoutly wish for peace cannot be doubted for a moment, however unwilling they may be to clothe in words such an unpatriotic sentiment. It is only the peasants who still entertain any enthusiasm for the Czar. The new levy to be raised in March of ten men in every 1000 inhabitants will drain the population of nearly a million of men—on paper; for nobody seriously believes the possibility of raising such an army by an Imperial ukase, it being well known that the Czar must first raise the means of equipping them.

Letters from Odessa state that the recall of the Grand Dukes Michael and Nicholas, has been decided on, but that they will probably return to the theatre of war next spring with the Czar himself. According to one account the Empress has earnestly demanded the return of her two youngest sons from the Crimea, where, if they perform their duties with anything like the self-abnegation and recklessness of danger exhibited by the British Royal soldier opposed to them, they will incur hourly perils and hardships of the gravest kind, without other probable laurels than those which their Imperial Highnesses reaped at Inkerman. Prince Menschikoff, notwithstanding his adulatory powers and courtier reverence, calls himself "géné" by their presence. Independent of the responsibility of looking to their safety, and yet of not too much circumscribing their bellicose ardour, the Russian General does not feel his hand quite free, and would fain rid himself of two Princes who can report truths to the Emperor. It is said that Prince Menschikoff has received an autograph letter from the Emperor, in which the latter thanks the army for the fidelity and

devotedness which it has hitherto shown, and expresses a conviction that Russia, protected by so brave an army, need not fear the whole world. By the side of these congratulations, which have been made public in an order of the day, the autograph letter contained remonstrances of a nature to prevent the recurrence of events similar to those of the 6th. The tone of the letter is so severe that it is very clear that the result of that day has produced a very deep impression on the Czar.

RUSSIA AND OUR INDIAN EMPIRE.

The reports from India relating to Russian intervention in Central Asia, which have been generally discredited in this country, have been placed beyond all doubt by the letters and papers received by the last Overland Mail. The Bombay correspondent of the *Times* gives the following remarks on the subject, from the *Delhi Gazette*:—

As to Russophobia, there is still a rational one, and the question may be thus summed up. The fear of being laughed at for suspecting Russia of any design on the British possessions in India is the form which Russophobia takes among us at the present day. This reaction against the wild, because timid, policy which led us into the Afghan war, is only natural. But, like every other violent reaction, it is liable to run into extremes.

Napoleon wrote to his brother Joseph (as appears from his lately-published correspondence) that Russia was too far off ever to give him any concern; and yet we all know how the history of a few subsequent years forced on him the conviction that there were but two alternatives for Europe, to become either Republican or Cossack. So here in India we have been accustomed to believe that Russia was "too far off" ever to disturb our peace. And yet there is evidence, hardly now to be gainsayed, that Russia is rapidly becoming possessed of the whole Doab of the Jaxartes and the Oxus—a country which for ten centuries of history and twenty more of tradition has supplied India with invaders. The headquarters of a Russian force—how large or small that force is of little moment—are now established within 500 miles of our North-West Frontier.

The *Friend of India* says it is "enabled to confirm absolutely the chief statements of the Cabul correspondent of the *Delhi Gazette*, and, by implication, to authenticate the remainder." The former journal says it has no wish to revive the "Russophobia" panic. "So long as the States of Central Asia remain native States, their affairs are as unimportant to the Empire as the quarrel of Feejeans." But the question becomes a much more serious one if the whole of these states are to be united under one, and especially if it should prove to be the case "that the courage of the mountaineers is to be organised by the science of the West." The Bombay correspondent of the *Times*, after quoting the above passage from the *Delhi paper*, says:—

The object of the Czar is evidently to compel Persia to join him, and then to effect a junction between the Russian force in Kokan and the Persian army at Merw (or Merve). This junction would place the resources of Bokhara, Persia, and Afghanistan at his disposal, and thereby render him paramount in all the countries between the Caspian and the Indus. The immediate advantages that Russia would obtain would be the co-operation of a Persian army against the Turks in Armenia, and the power of harassing our Indian army by stirring up and uniting against us the tribes of the Indus frontier, who are said in the Punjab report to be able to bring at least 100,000 fighting men into the field. It is true that these are altogether unable to cope with our regular troops in the plains; but, by a well-organised system of incessant inroads into our territories, they would compel us to keep up a very much larger force on the frontier than is necessary at present.

The most formidable results of the success of the present Russian policy in Central Asia would be the complete alienation of the two Mussulman Powers most interested in repelling Russian aggression, and the establishment of a base of operations at Herat and Cabul for a future attack on British India whenever an opportunity should offer.

With their magazines and cantonments on the south of the Hindoo Koosh, a Russian invasion of India would be easier, geographically speaking, than a French invasion of Italy. We might be able to crush them on their debouchement from the passes; but I believe that few who have seen Sepoys in the presence of the enemy, or held familiar intercourse with those who have, would wish to see the fate of British India risked on a battle between Indian Sepoys and European or Russian troops, even were the Sepoys as two to one.

It would, of course, be many years before Russia could be sufficiently established in Afghanistan to cause any immediate apprehension of an invasion; but when her projects of aggression in the direction of Turkey are closed, she may be expected to pay more attention to the increase of her power to the eastward. Whenever an opportunity does occur, it will be probably one of her own creating. A Russian force on the frontier of India will be an encouragement to revolt held out to all the native Princes of India, most of whom would be glad to free themselves from British control if they dared. It must be remembered that these native Princes are very rich, and their armies exceed our own in number about a third.

THE PRUSSIAN MISSION.

The German papers are much at a loss to know what the object of Herr Von Usedom's mission to London means. According to one account, the object of the Prussian Envoy Extraordinary is to induce the English, and of course the French Governments to consent to a separate treaty with Prussia, instead of insisting on her adhesion to the treaty concluded with Austria on the 2nd December. Prussia hopes in this way to be allowed to place herself in a sort of *mezzo termine*, by which she will satisfy the Western Powers, and satisfy public opinion in her own States, without compromising herself so completely with Russia as she would do by giving in her adhesion to the treaty of the 2nd December.

Spencer's Gazette of Berlin states that on the 16th the Austrian, French, and English Ambassadors waited on M. de Manteuffel to demand the adhesion of Prussia to the Treaty of Vienna. M. de Manteuffel inquired whether they were authorised to communicate the interpretation of the four points, and on their replying in the negative, he said that under such circumstances they could not expect an immediate adhesion. On the 17th the Prussian Minister formally repeated his application for precise information as to the four points, and this being refused, the Ambassadors were told that Prussia could not give an immediate adhesion.

A letter from Berlin, of the 23rd, says:—

As negotiations are to take place before long at Constantinople, to regulate the future relations of the Principalities and the Porte, the Prussian Ambassador at Constantinople, M. de Wildenbruck, has received orders to insist on his right to take part in these deliberations, and to act in concert with the Ambassador of Austria. It is false that Prince Gortschakoff has been authorised by his Government to accept unreservedly the four points, in case he cannot do better. It is said that the petty States of Germany are preparing a collective representation, to be addressed to the Cabinet of Vienna, against their expulsion from the deliberations which are to take place in consequence of the treaty of December 2. The Prussian Cabinet is disposed to second this representation. In consequence of a notice issued by the Russian Embassy, that medical men were wanted for the Russian army, twenty-three have presented themselves at the Russian embassy.

AMERICA.

The steam-ship *Africa*, which left New York on the 13th inst., arrived at Liverpool on Sunday. The papers are filled with the proceedings in Congress, and speculations about what is to be done; but the general impression at Washington was that no business of importance would be transacted until after the holidays.

In the Senate, on the 11th, a bill to establish a uniform rate of naturalisation throughout the United States, to act prospectively upon those foreigners only who entered the United States after the passing of the Act, was introduced, read, and referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill extended the term of naturalisation to twenty-one years. In introducing the bill, Mr. Adams denied he had any connexion with the Know-Nothing, or with any other political secret association, and disclaimed any hostility to foreigners; but he thought emigration dangerous, inasmuch as foreigners ranged themselves with Abolitionists. He introduced the bill because he had learned that a band of Germans had burned an American Senator in effigy. Mr. Brodhead moved that the Appropriation Bill of last session, for the support of the ocean mail steamers, be referred to the Committee on Post Roads. He thought the allowance was too high, and that the steamers were utterly useless for war vessels. He would give the notice, and take the vessels at their appraised value. The bill was ultimately laid on the table.

In the House of Representatives, on the 11th, leave to offer a resolution, requesting the President to tender his mediation in the pending war in Europe, was refused.

According to Washington advices the President was extremely anxious to accomplish a modification of the present tariff, the raising of four new regiments, and the increase of the Navy.

In the municipal elections in the United States, the Know-Nothings have been almost entirely successful. It is stated that there is not a single applicant for the office of Governor for the territory of Utah, soon to become vacant by the expiration of Brigham Young's term.

A run had been made upon the Savings-banks in New York, by the working-classes.

The *New York Journal of Commerce* says—"The present war, if it humbles the power of Russia, as we believe in the end it must, will put

a new commercial aspect upon this whole part of the world. The Porte has, indeed, been anxious to develop the resources of this region by attracting hither foreign trade and capital, but the condition in which it was bound by treaties to keep the Black Sea, has vastly impeded its enlightened plans. All nations besides Russia may find satisfaction in the prospect that this state of things will soon cease for ever."

The Canadian Parliament was to be adjourned on the 15th instant. Lord Elgin was to give his assent to the Clergy Reserves Bill, and the Abolition of Feudal Reserve Bill, and then to resign in favour of Sir Edmund Head. His Lordship was expected to leave New York by steamer about the 23rd. The Reciprocity Bill for Nova Scotia passed the Legislature on the 11th by a majority of twenty-two.

Despatches from the Sandwich Islands report that the treaty with the United States had been assented to by the Royal Family. The arrival of a portion of the Japan squadron at Honolulu had created a great sensation.

INDIA AND CHINA.

Letters and advices from India and China have been received of the following dates—Calcutta, 19th; Madras, 24th; and Bombay, 28th Nov.; Amoy, 30th Oct.; Shanghai, 5th Nov.; Canton, same date; Hong-Kong, 10th; and Singapore, 20th Nov.

Dost Mahomed had opened a friendly correspondence with the Governor-General. A treaty had been made with the Khan of Kelas for the protection of our frontier from Kurrahee to Candahar.

Nepal is increasing her military forces. The Burman Envoy from Ava was still expected at Calcutta. The price of opium at Calcutta had begun to rise. Capital abounds, and is almost redundant. At Bombay trade was bad.

In the north of China the Imperialists had gained some advantages over the insurgents, and expected shortly to recover Shanghai.

The piratical force in the river and in the waters near Hong-Kong was so alarming that Sir James Stirling had represented the matter, through the Lieutenant-Governor, Colonel Canie, to the Viceroy of Canton, and requested his co-operation in the destruction of these fleets. A ready assent was given, and the means at the disposal of the Imperial Government were to be placed in readiness to proceed with any expedition that Sir James Stirling might undertake. Two boat expeditions had already destroyed a number of junks at a village close to Hong-Kong, where the United States steamer the *Queen* had been fired upon while reconnoitring.

On the morning of the 1st of November, the Arctic Expedition ship *Enterprise*, Captain Collinson, arrived at Hong-Kong, and all on board well. The *Enterprise* was to leave shortly for England.

THE COURT.

The Christmas holidays have not been marked this year by the customary Court hospitality. This deviation from ordinary custom is to be attributed to the deference gracefully paid by the highest lady in the land to the political situation in which the great Western Powers are at present involved with Russia.

Her Majesty has this week received a formal visit from his Excellency Baron Usedom (who arrived on Wednesday), specially appointed by the King of Prussia on an extraordinary mission to this country; but beyond this—with the exception of occasional visits from members of the Ministry—there have been no additions to the ordinary domestic circle of the Sovereign.

On Christmas-day the Queen and Prince, the Prince of Wales, the Princes Royal, Prince Alfred, and the Princesses Alice and Helena, the ladies and gentlemen of the Court, and the domestic household, attended Divine service in the private chapel of the Castle. The Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor performed the services, and administered the Holy Communion. The Duchess of Kent was also at the service. In the evening the Royal dinner-party included her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, the Duke of Newcastle, the Dowager Marchioness of Downshire, Viscount Canning, Major-General the Hon. C. and Mrs. Grey, Colonel the Hon. C. B. and Mrs. Phipps, Colonel the Hon. N. and Lady Mary Hood, Colonel and Lady Emily Seymour, and Mr. Glover.

Her Majesty's annual bounties, in food and clothing, to the poor of Windsor and the vicinity, will be distributed on Monday next, in the Royal Riding-house at Windsor Castle, in the presence of the Queen and Prince Albert and the youthful Royal family.

The Duke of Rutland is surrounded by a distinguished circle of friends at Belvoir Castle. His Grace's birthday will be celebrated with the usual rejoicings next week.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Kildare have arrived at Stafford-house from visiting the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland at Trentham. The Marchioness is expecting her confinement early in the ensuing month.

The Marquis of Clanricarde, accompanied by Lord Dunkellin, left Carlton-house-terrace on Friday evening for Portumna Castle, county Galway, to meet the Marchioness and the Ladies De Burgh.

The Countess Frances Waldegrave and Mr. Harcourt, M.P., are entertaining a large party at Nuneham Abbey during the holidays.

Viscount Ennismore, who was wounded at the battle of the Alma while serving with his regiment (the Scots Fusilier Guards), has been promoted to a Captaincy in the same regiment, without purchase.

We understand that the marriage of Sir Humphrey de Trafford, Bart., of Trafford Hall, Lancashire, and the Lady Annette Talbot, daughter of Mrs. Washington Hibbert, and sister of the Earl of Shrewsbury, is expected to take place about the middle of next month, at Bilton Grange, Warwickshire.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer. Highest Reading.	Thermometer. Lowest Reading.	Mean Temperature of the Day.	Departure of Temperature from Average.	Degree of Humidity.	Direction of Wind.	Rain in Inches.
Dec. 22	29.851	54.2	41.0	49.8	+ 11.3	84	W.	0.10
" 23	29.899	46.4	37.0	41.5	+ 3.1	85	W.	0.05
" 24	29.844	46.0	35.0	42.0	+ 3.8	92	W.	0.09
" 25	29.608	54.5	40.0	50.4	+ 12.4	90	S.W.	0.10
" 26	29.797	45.3	37.2	40.8	+ 3.0	83	S.W.	0.01
" 27	29.811	44.4	34.0	37.7	+ 0.1	82	N.W.	0.00
" 28	30.326	37.5	30.5	34.0	— 3.4	87	N.E.	0.06

Note.—The sign + denotes above the average, and the sign — below the average.

The reading of the barometer decreased from 29.85 inches at the beginning of the week to 29.68 inches by the afternoon of the 22nd, increased to 29.90 inches by the 23rd, decreased to 29.60 inches by the 25th, and increased to 30.40 inches by the end of the week. The mean for the week, at the height of 82 feet above the sea level was 29.870 inches.

The mean daily temperatures have varied from 12° above to 34° below their average values. The mean of the 22nd was 49.8°, and is the highest mean temperature recorded on that day since the year 1828, when it was 51.5°; that of the 25th was 50.4°, and is the highest since 1824, when the mean daily temperature was 53.1°.

The mean temperature of the week was 42.2°, being 4.3° above the average of the corresponding week during thirty-eight years.

The range of temperature during the week was 24°, being the difference between the highest reading of the thermometer, on the 25th, and the lowest on the 28th.

The mean daily range of temperature during the week was 10½°.

Rain fell to the depth of rather more than two-tenths of an inch. The weather on Christmas-day was bad; with this exception the week has been fine, with frequently a cloudless sky. Some snow fell on the 27th and 28th, in the northern parts of the country—there was only a very slight fall about the metropolis on the morning of the 28th.

Lewisham, December 29, 1854.

JAMES GLAISHER.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The mortality of London is still high, and exceeds the average. In the past week 639 males and 652 females died. These numbers differ but little from those in the two preceding weeks. The mortality is still most fatal among children. Scariatina is somewhat less prevalent. No less than 34 persons died from small-pox: of these 20 were children, and 14 were adults. There were two deaths only from cholera.

SEXAGENARIAN MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—There are no less than seventy-two members of the House of Commons who claim to be wholly excused on election committees on account of being more than sixty years of age. The list includes the names of Sir T. D. Acland, Sir J. Bailey, Admiral Berkeley, Sir George Berkeley, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Hume, Sir C. Burrell, Mr. B. B. Cabbell, Mr. Coffin, Right Hon. E. Ellice, Sir De Lacy Evans, Mr. W. J. Fox, Mr. Goulburn, Mr. Greene, Right Hon. J. W. Henley, Sir T. Frankland Lewis, Colonel Lowther, Mr. Masterman, Mr. J. P. Maunsell, Mr. H. Drummond, Mr. Muntz, Sir G. Pecheil, Sir R. Price, Lord John Russell, Mr. Spooner, Sir G. Strickland, Mr. Thorneley, Admiral Walcott, Mr. W. B. Wrightson, and General Wyndham.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

THE 10th Hussars are under orders to proceed to the Crimea.

THE Board of Ordnance have given orders for the construction of a formidable redoubt at Freshwater, Isle of Wight.

THE Commander-in-Chief having decided on the formation of an artillery barrack at Devonport, the Ordnance are taking steps for its immediate construction.

THE Falkirk Iron Company have received from the French Government an order for 3000 stoves, for the seat of war. The same firm has also received a very large order from the British Government for shells.

THE *Nix* and *Salamander* gun-boats, sent from Prussia to Plymouth, in exchange for the British frigate *Thetis*, are to be surveyed by the officers of the Devonport Dockyard, in order to ascertain whether they are perfectly fitted, and whether their machinery is in good order, before the exchange is completed.

THE Government has entered into contracts for 50,000 Minié rifles and rifle carbines; the contracts have been taken by manufacturers at Liege, Birmingham, and London. The most extensive contracts have been taken by Belgian houses, and it is stated that the supply from all places will extend over 3000 per week.

THE Cavalry regiments in Ireland have received orders to raise each 120 men, instead of 60 already authorised, for each of the Cavalry corps in the East, and have been directed to use every means in their power to have the men drilled within the prescribed period allowed for cavalry instruction—viz., four months—in order that strong reinforcements of drafts and remnants may be ready for active service in the spring.

GREAT activity prevails at the small-arm department of the Ordnance, Enfield Lock, in the manufacture of swords, sabres, bayonets, rifles, and repeating pistols, for the armament of the reinforcements about to proceed to the Crimea; and the premises not being sufficiently commodious, the Board of Ordnance are about to proceed with extensive enlargements and improvements.

THE *Black Prince* screw steam-vessel, having taken on board a large portion of siege guns, &c., at Woolwich, was taken up on Saturday afternoon to the dockyard to be coaled; and, relays of labourers having been engaged, continued to work all Saturday night, all Sunday and Sunday night, and until dusk on Monday. When her coaling was completed, she left for Greenhithe, to have her compasses adjusted, preparatory to her proceeding to the Crimea.

On Tuesday fatigue parties of the Royal Artillery, the detachment constituting the garrison of the Tower, with several extra labourers, were engaged in delivering from the Ordnance stores in the fortress military clothing, boots, and other military stores, for conveyance to the several head-quarters of those regiments already embodied, or about to be embodied, throughout the United Kingdom. It is intended to supply each regiment with a limited number of Minié rifles; and the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates will be practised in the use of that formidable weapon, in case of volunteering for foreign service.

THERE is every reason to hope that a large instalment of the wooden huts and other comforts have reached the army in the Crimea before this. The *Cosmopolitan*, the *Cumberland*, and the *John Bowes*, steam transports, laden with huts, left Gibraltar for the East—the first on the 15th, and the two last on the 18th instant. The *Alma*, laden with stores, also proceeded to the East on the 18th, after coaling.

ARRIVAL OF THE DISCOVERY SHIP, "ENTERPRISE," CAPTAIN COLLINSON, AT HONG-KONG.

(From our own Correspondent.)

On the 1st of November, 1854, at eight o'clock in the morning, a light haze lifted from the north-east entrance, and revealed the long-missing Collinson's *Enterprise*. There she came sure enough, with a white ensign flying, her sides, trebly fortified, still showing marks of many a hard nip, struggle, and grind, in conflict with the ice. The flag-ship hoisted the demand. It was answered by the *Enterprise* showing a number, which proclaimed her to be the *Endymion*, owing to a change in the number of her Majesty's ships. The truth was, however, soon apparent. It was a relief to be assured that there would be no expedition to be sent after the *Enterprise*. Admiral Sir James Stirling hoisted the signals "We are rejoiced to see you!" and "How goes it?" Answer, "All well!" as the boats of the squadron towed them to their anchorage and fired their salis.

Your readers will remember that the *Enterprise* was put in commission 14th December, 1849: Capt. Richard Collinson, C.B.; Lieut. Geo. A. Phayne and Murray T. Parks; Additional Lieut. Charles T. Jago; Surg. Robert Anderson; Assist.-Surg. Edward Adams; Second Master Francis Skead. These officers are all alive and in excellent health. The other subalterns and men are also well. They are very fat and strong. The sick list is blank, and they have lost only three men in the five years; of whom one died from chronic disease, one fell down dead on deck in a fit, and one died from ice injuries.

Captain Collinson, after having been to the north of Cape Barrow, in August, 1850, returned through Behring Strait, wintered at Hong-Kong, 1850-1, and sailed to Port Clarence; and then north, through the Strait, in July, 1851, in prosecution of the search.

The *Enterprise* passed the next winter (1851-2) in Walker Bay, a little to the north of Minto Inlet, in Prince Albert's Land, lat. 71 deg. 30 min.; long. 118 deg. west. In the summer of 1852 she passed up through the Prince of Wales Strait, and was at the Princess Royal Islands only ten days after Captain McClure; having picked up two or three of his marks, and four of Dr. Rae's, in that vicinity. She proceeded well outside to the north and west of the outlet called "Investigator Sound." At this point she was a very short distance indeed from Captain McClure, in the Bay of Mercy. From this point Captain Collinson retraced his way south and west through Dease's Strait, and spent the winter 1852-3 in Cambridge Bay, lat. 69° N., long. 106° W. From this point (so favourable for an attempt to penetrate through the Victoria Strait and Bellot Sound, into Prince Regent's Inlet), no such attempt was made. It was said to be a source of bitter disappointment to Captain Collinson's officers, as well as of frequent disputes and unpleasant scenes, that, instead of advancing north-west (which there seemed nothing to prevent his doing), he decided on returning eastward, along the Esquimaux coast, passing Cape Bathurst, without making any communication (which might have reached home long since); and he spent last winter in Camden Bay, long. 145° W.

They were liberated, after eleven months' weary wintering in the pack, early this summer, and ran from Port Clarence to Hong-Kong in six weeks, without seeing or hearing of any Russian ships, or any, except two American whalers. Every one of the officers was suspended from duty or under arrest. One had been confined to his cabin for nearly three years; another for nearly the same period. A very unusual and a very deplorable state of things prevailed. The officers were not even allowed to go on shore at Hong-Kong when the men went. But, after some converse with the Admiral, they were liberated, but without any references to the questions at issue, which are of too grave a nature to be decided here.

In some places the people of the *Enterprise* caught a great quantity of fine fish—sometimes as much as two tons at a single haul, and five or six salmon among them, weighing about 28 lbs. each. A great abundance of ptarmigan and other wild fowl were obtained, even by the inferior weapons of the ship's company; for, owing to the unhappy differences between the officers and their Captain, the former were deprived of the opportunity of trying their hands.

The *Rattlesnake* was sent home from Port Clarence early in August. The *Enterprise* then went north to recall the *Plover*, and sent her home by the Sandwich Islands.

LOSS OF THE SHIP "CHARLOTTE," IN ALGOA BAY.

WE are enabled to illustrate this appalling wreck from sketches by two spectators of the melancholy scene. It appears that, on the 19th of September, the ship *Charlotte*, 586 tons—R. Adilich, Commander—having detachments of the 27th Regiment on board, for Calcutta, put into Port Elizabeth for water. On Wednesday morning a heavy sea commenced setting into the bay, with moderate southerly wind, which increased towards noon, and being more to the south-east, topgallant masts and yards were struck, and preparations made for a gale. During Wednesday night the wind freshened considerably; a very heavy sea continued to roll in, preventing any communication from the shore. About five o'clock the *Charlotte* made the signal "I have parted," and at half-past five she was observed to be drifting to the northward, having parted her second bower; an attempt was then made to beat the vessel out, and all available canvas was set, and the ship stood to the eastward, apparently making good way, but having no foretop-sail bent, and the topgallant masts struck (thus preventing the yards from being hoisted up) it was impossible to stay her, and they were obliged to wear. At eight o'clock the vessel had stood towards the shipping; and again attempted to wear; the wind had



WRECK OF THE TROOP-SHIP "CHARLOTTE," IN ALGOA BAY.

however, by this time fallen light, and, not having sufficient canvas set, she drifted in towards the shore, and eventually struck on the rocks at the end of Jetty-street.

Every attempt was then made to communicate with the vessel. The life-boat had been sent to the head of the bar, hoping the ship would be beached there. Manby's apparatus was then brought down, and a rope was thrown several times over the vessel, but the communication was lost. The vessel had by this time settled considerably, and the sea was making a complete breach over her. The life-boat was then launched from the beach to the southward, and succeeded in reaching the ship three several times. But by this time the vessel had settled down on her starboard side, the men were standing up to their waists in water, and no warp or rope could be obtained. In an attempt to communicate, the life-boat was filled and driven on the rocks, where she was knocked to pieces, and the crew narrowly escaped.

The vessel was now evidently breaking up fast, and at one o'clock the poop and mizen-mast separated from the fore-part, leaving a great number of soldiers and sailors on the fore-castle. The poop drifted towards the rock, and nearly all on that part of the ship were saved.

In less than half an hour afterwards the bow of the vessel turned completely over, and every soul in that part must have perished. The unfortunate people thus saved were immediately provided for, as far as circumstances would admit, by the inhabitants, who vied with each other in their endeavours to comfort the sufferers. At daylight not a vestige of the ill-fated vessel was to be seen where she was wrecked: a mass of broken masts and timber, entangled in ropes and torn sails, strewed the beach.

Immediate search was made for the bodies of those who had perished; and during the morning twenty-three had been recovered, a portion of whom were buried before dark, followed by all the troops in garrison, and a great number of the inhabitants. Everything that humanity could suggest was done for the survivors; and a sum of nearly £400 has been subscribed towards their relief.

The crew consisted of seventeen British and four foreigners, the Captain and son, and first and second officer. Of these, the following are the survivors: Captain Affisch, his son, first officer, and the butcher, steward, cook, and two others. There were also lost—62 soldiers, 11 women, and 26 children.

One of our Correspondents relates:—"Dr. Kidd, of the 27th, was washed overboard, and, thanks to a life-belt (which caused him to be the laughing-stock of his brother officers on the way), he was saved."

From the official record of the melancholy wreck, it appeared that the Captain acted with great courage and coolness throughout the trying scene. It was the general opinion at Port Elizabeth that the moorings of the *Charlotte* were not of sufficient strength for a ship of her tonnage.

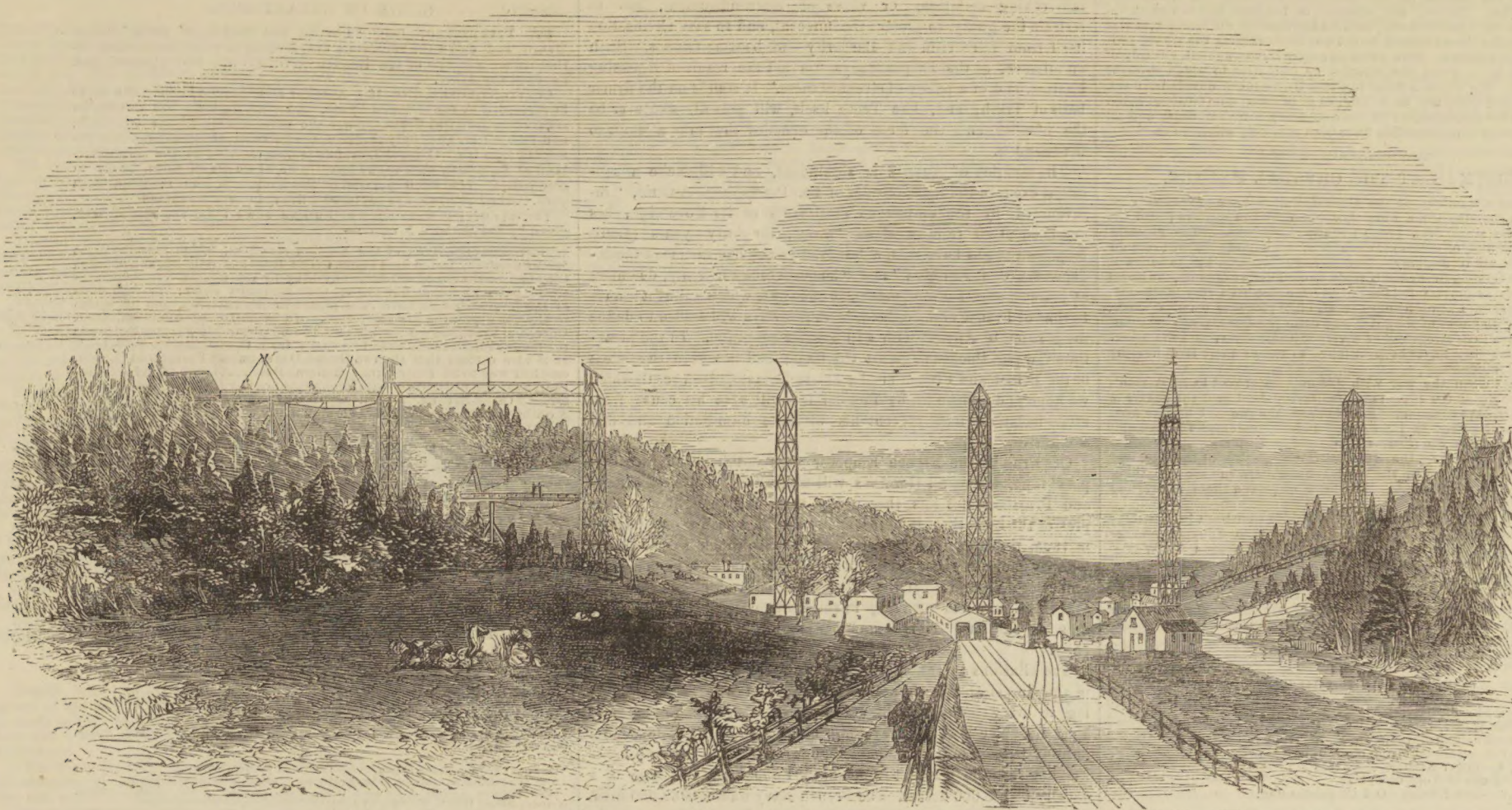
Our other Correspondent writes from Port Elizabeth:—"Never was there known such a melancholy occurrence here before, there being such protracted misery on board during the time the ship was breaking up; while, of the thousands who were looking on, none could help."

The Sketch shows the ship "at the time the life-boat attempted to reach her; but, at this time, all on board were clinging to her for life or death; every sea breaking over her, and making her roll so frightfully that they were unable even to give a proper rope; many on board by this time were killed and others wounded attempting to swim on shore."

The foreground of this Sketch is Patrick-street, Port Elizabeth.



WRECK OF THE TROOP-SHIP "CHARLOTTE."—ATTEMPT OF THE LIFE-BOAT.



THE CRUMLIN VIADUCT, ON THE WESTERN VALLEY RAILWAY.

THE CRUMLIN VALLEY VIADUCT.

AMONG the gigantic labours of this engineering age, we have already recorded the spanning of the Menai Straits, the undermining of the Thames, the crossing of Folkestone Valley, the tunnelling of the Shakspeare Cliff, and the bridging of the Wye; to which colossal labours we have now to add the commencement of the construction of a Viaduct across the Crumlin Valley, of magnitude worthy to be associated with the above triumphs of Engineering skill. It may bespeak the interest of the reader to state that each of the iron piers which are to support the girders of this Viaduct is, within 12 ft., the height of the London Monument; whilst each of the girders, of which there are several, is 150 feet long.

The picturesque Valley of Crumlin is about twelve miles distant from Newport, Monmouthshire, on the Western Valleys Railway. The surrounding scenery, although pleasing to the eye of the lover of nature, presents numerous obstacles to railway engineering, one of which will be overcome by the present Viaduct, in connection with the Taff Vale Extension Railway, which, when completed, will contribute materially to develop the mineral wealth of South Wales.

The following are a few of the principal dimensions of the vast design:—The total distance from abutment to abutment is 1046 ft. 3 in. The piers are equidistant from each other 150 feet; and are composed of 14 cast-iron columns, of 10 tiers in height, firmly braced together with cast-iron girders, and diagonals of wrought iron, having tightening cutters. The columns at the base of the piers are 60 ft. 1 in. centres, tapering to 28 ft. at the top. A triangular casting is properly secured to the top of these columns, on which rest the main girders for the roadway. The distance from the foundation of pier to top of rails is about 191 feet 8½ inches. In the accompanying sketch on the right hand is a smaller Viaduct of two piers stretching across the Kenyon-road; and a Tramway, belonging to Sir B. Hall, Bart., M.P. This Viaduct, and a portion of the larger one, are curved to a radius of twenty chains. The principle of the girder is stated to be patented by Captain Warren and the contractor of the Viaduct, Mr. T. W. Kennard.

The ceremony of fixing the first column was performed by Lady Fitz-Maurice, on the 8th instant, in presence of several scientific gentlemen and numerous spectators. Previously to lifting the first girder, it was tested with a weight of 250 tons, and gave great satisfaction to the engineer who inspected it. On the 3rd instant, about half-past three in the afternoon, it reached the position destined for it, from pier to pier

on the Pontypool side of the valley. The weight of this girder was twenty-four tons, and it was raised by machinery at the rate of four inches a minute. When the girder was "planted," a loud and hearty cheer burst from the lips of the workmen, who were some of them in most perilous positions; while one, more courageous than the rest, actually walked across the girder, which was about a foot in width, and 200 feet from the ground. In the midst of the excitement, Mr. H. M. Kennard, brother of the contractor, ascended a platform and spoke to the men in glowing terms of the dangers to which our troops were exposed in the Crimea, proposing to the men the desirability of contributing something towards the fund, as a sort of commemoration of the memorable day. The proposal was received with deafening acclamations, and a day's pay was at once cheerfully offered. The work-people were afterwards regaled by Mr. Kennard, who has built a large permanent workshop adjacent to the Viaduct.

IRON CLOCK-TOWER FOR GEELONG.

NOTHING like iron would seem to be an industrial maxim of the present times, which may, indeed, be designated "iron-aval." Distinguished above other nations for the exuberance and cheapness of our supply of iron, we have, of late years, greatly multiplied its uses. We build leviathan ships and mansion-like houses of iron; and, in the instance before us, we have the ready adaptation of this material to the immediate wants of a rapidly-rising community, whose want of public building is no sooner known in the mother-country, than it is provided and shipped for her golden colony. Poets have sung of "the iron tongue of midnight"—of which, by the way, we are just now forcibly reminded.

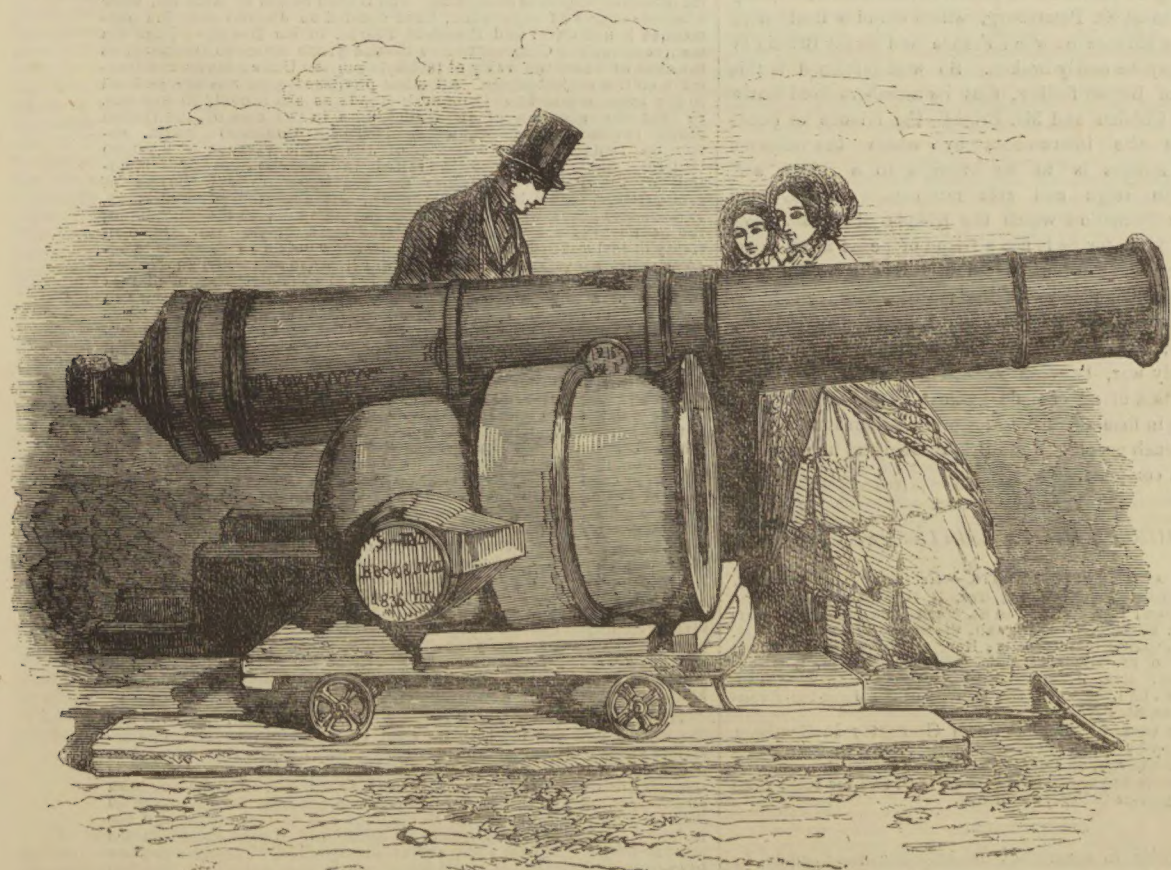
The height of the Tower, including the nave and base, is about sixty feet; and the width of the shaft about seven feet. It is formed of a frame-work of iron; between the framings are inserted stout tiles, made by Minton, of a neat drab or stone colour; each tile is about fourteen inches by eleven inches. As they approach the gallery they become ornamental, and proceed thus to the Clock face, and around it, giving a very pleasing ornamental finish. The balustrades and footway of the gallery are of iron-work, of elegant design. The doorway at the base is in the Moorish style. The Tower can only be used for the one purpose—viz., for the Clock, as a good space will be occupied by the weights, &c. From the base project four lamps.

The iron work has been executed from the design of Mr. James

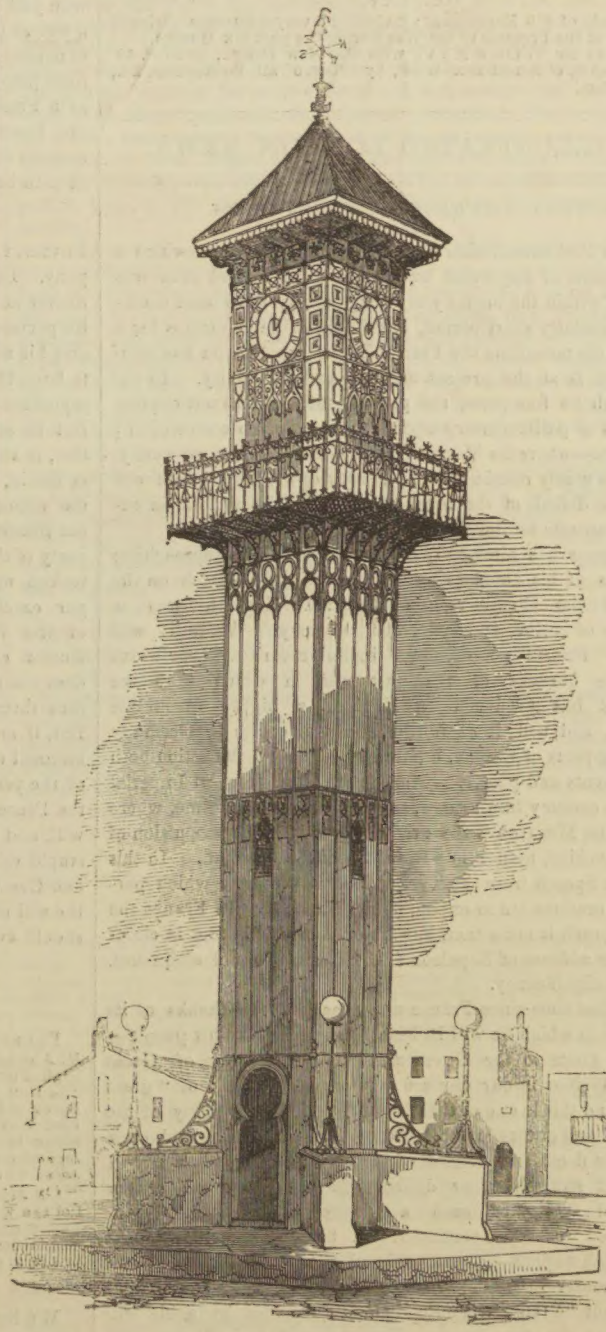
Edmeston, architect, by Messrs. Silvester and Co., of Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury. The Clock has four illuminated dials, and has been constructed by Messrs. Moore, of Clerkenwell-close. It is a gift to the town from Mr. James Austin, the second Mayor of Geelong.

In this Tower, the first structure of its kind, the combination of iron framing and tiles, or slabs of burnt earth, offers infinite opportunities for variety of ornamentation. It is better fitted, even as regards strength, for a dwelling-house or church, than for such an erection as the present. A metal net, stretched on the inner rib, and then plastered on, leaving a space between it and the wall of terra-cotta, would make a comfortable room, warm in winter and cool in summer, and be infinitely superior to the houses of wood or corrugated iron. Hereafter some Clerkenwell laureate may commemorate the application of iron to the bell-tower as well as the bell.

In setting out the town of Geelong, the Liverpool of Australia, a square of eight acres was wisely preserved by the Governor, Sir George Gipps, with the humane view of promoting the health of the place; and



GUN AND MORTAR FROM BOMAESUND, AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



CAST IRON CLOCK-TOWER FOR GEELONG.

NEW BULLET.—Mr. William Palmer, of Feltwell, Norfolk, has invented a ball suitable both for small guns and cannon, which he describes as far more deadly and destructive in its effects than any yet in use. He says, "It cuts, wounds, and lacerates in such a manner, that it is scarcely possible that any animal or man should live after having been struck by it. A ball that would fit a common gun—say five-eighths of an inch in diameter—expands on leaving the gun to four inches, and the instant it touches anything, cuts in all directions. A cannon-ball on the same principle would cut a space of at least two feet. The invention has been tried several times in small guns, and it does not appear to affect the flight of the ball in the slightest degree. It would be a very destructive shot in a regiment."

FINE ARTS.

WINTER EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH SCHOOL,
PAL-MALL.

THE Winter Exhibition of Cabinet Pictures, Sketches, and Water-Colour Drawings, of the British School, opened at the Small Gallery, 121, Pall-mall, is, upon the whole, an interesting and creditable display of native art. The exhibitors comprise amongst their numbers Sir C. Eastlake, Messrs. Ansell, Frith, Elmore, Goodall, MacIse, Leslie, Lee, Pickersgill, Roberts, Stanfield, Uwins. Some of the exhibits are sketches, in small, of pictures already known to the public; others of pictures intended for exhibition; whilst others may be looked upon as original and finished works, intended to rest upon their own merits.

The accomplished President of the Royal Academy is seen to advantage in the "Pilgrims in Sight of Rome," in character full of intense devotional feeling, whilst in technical points, both of colour and masterly touch, it commands our admiration, to an extent which the artist has failed in doing in some of his more recent performances.

Frith's "Study for the Picture of Ramsgate Sands," is almost a facsimile of that very clever work, with all the fun realised, though in diminutive proportions. It is placed just over the mantelpiece, and is well worth looking into.

Ansell has three clever animal and shepherd pieces, which prove that he is as much at home in small as well as large canvases.

C. W. Cope treats us to a little bit of New School intensity—"Evening Prayer;" the child's dress illumined with the warm glow of fire-light on the one side of the picture; whilst on the other side all is clear—cold, starlit sky seen through a casement. This is called contrast.

Egg has a capital little piece, from an incident in the "Fortunes of Nigel"—the prison scene, where Lord Glenorlock discovers the ship-chandler's wife in her page's disguise. The awkward attitude and conscious expression of the latter person are well conceived.

The "Religious Controversy," by Elmore, is a sketch rather ambitious in subject, intended for a larger picture. It is a composition of several figures, amongst which is a Cardinal sitting as umpire between the disputants; but it has not as yet quite enough of life and purpose to make it "tell."

Glass, amongst half a dozen contributions, has one (a sketch—"Charge of Cavalry at Balacava") which gives notice of preparation for an equestrian performance, upon his usually extensive scale, for the spring exhibitions.

Goodall's two views—"Capilla del Perdon" and the "Aqueduct at Segovia"—display all his usual feeling, study, and delicate finish.

Leslie has a well-conceived and carefully-studied sketch from Henry VIII.—the scene where poor Queen Katharine says—

"Sir, I most humbly pray you
To deliver this to my lord the King."

MacIse, who does not often come out in the small way, has a good group of two figures, *Hubert and Madge*. The expression of both faces is good, and the finish in all respects such as MacIse always shows; the tone also is more subdued than is his wont, with a successful attempt at *chiaroscuro*.

"The Gipsy Sisters of Seville," by J. Philip, is full of life and truth; the character of the Gitanas speaking through every feature, and the rich warm colouring admirably appropriate to their native clime.

Pickersgill paints an amusing and edifying satire in "A Lost Game." A gentleman on the eve of checkmate, at a game of chess with a fair damsel, with Cupid at her back; and Anacreon's lines appended to explain the allegory—"You are not a match for Love!"

Roberts exhibits two views—"Isaiah (ancient Sidon), looking towards Mount Lebanon," and the "Ruins of Tiberias, Sea of Galilee." Mount Hermon in the distance—in which his inimitable treatment of sky and water surface is most happily displayed.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

Although one of their representatives annually attacks the Queen's Plate vote in Parliament, the Manchester men are always thoroughly disposed to allow a great national holiday to pass over without something in the shape of sport. be it racing, trotting, or rabbit coursing, and they therefore purpose inaugurating the New Year with a couple of steeplechases on Monday next. The Trout, 11st. 6lbs., stands head of a very numerous entry in the more important of the two chases, but the acceptances for it have not as yet been published.

Coursing pursues the even tenor of its way, with very little interruption from the frost; and there are six good public fixtures for next week: Westward (Wigton) claims New Year's-day; while Longuer (Salop) is arranged for Wednesday; South Lancashire (open) for Wednesday; Baldock Champion (Herts) for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; Chartley (open), Staffordshire, for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; &c. Earl Sefton (whose passion for the sport is not inferior to that felt for it in olden times by the celebrated leas of coursing Earls, Rivers, Craven, and Orford), has rather recovered his luck at the Altcar Club Meeting, where he ran up last week for one stake with his celebrated Sackcloth, and won another with his Sylph.

York will present no small charms for the lovers of blood stock on Monday and Tuesday, as both Messrs. Johnson and Tattersall will set up their rostrums in it on those days. Ten of the late Mr. Melkham's stud are to be disposed of, including Sicily, Peggy, Inheritress, and Florence. Sires there are, also, for the foreign and home market, in abundance—to wit, Newport (one of the most gentlemanly and blood-like animals we have), Red Lion, Chief Justice, St. Andrew, Revolver, Arthur Wellesley, Burndale, Pug-Orrock, &c.; besides several yearlings. The above list contains the clearings of Dawson's Middleham stable, at which the Reiver, whose mysterious travels and Chester Cup chances have of late caused no little speculation, is believed by some to be located. Several nominations for York and Doncaster races also close on the same day, along with sundry others for Newmarket and the chief racing towns.

The displacement of Graculus Esuriens from his pride of place in the Derby betting, by the reputed roarer De Clair—who will, no doubt, as time creeps on, have in turn to succumb before Bonnie Morn—is the only present feature of the Christmas market at Tattersall's; where, however, the capture of Sebastopol before twelve on the night of Christmas-day, is still said to be the subject of a £1000 even bet. During the past season of turf speculation, it seems that 1841 horses started; and that the weight-for-age races numbered 988, the handicaps 506, the walks-over 40, the matches 50, and the match forfeits 17. "Mr. Howard" has an immensely strong team for next season, and it seems hardly probable that the untied St. Hubert will long keep ahead of his slashing rough-and-ready stable-mate, Oulston—the only fine foal that the renowned Alice Hawthorne has as yet produced. A return of the Royal Stud has just been published, from which it seems that eighteen out of twenty-one mares have foals; but that, as if to counteract their great recent sale luck, thirteen out of the number are fillies. Mr. Greville, who has twenty mares at the same place, has removed Alarm to Newmarket for the ensuing season; and we hear no confirmation of the report that he and his "confederate," Mr. Payne, intend to train with Harlock, instead of Dockeray, in future. One of Harlock's late charges, Filbert, has gone to the stud, and, although no very distinguished winner, his union of Tomboy and Touchstone blood will secure his not being overlooked. Sir Tatton Sykes, who has a great partiality for Bay Middleton mares and chestnut sires, has also, we hear, purchased little Daniel O'Rourke, whose queer exercise pranks at Malton for the last two years have not much beset the dignity of a Derby winner. One of the veteran Baronet's sporting Yorkshire contemporaries, Michael Brunton, has just passed away, at the patriarchal age of ninety. We last saw him at Doncaster in 1849, when he told us that he had not missed one meeting since 1789, the year that Earl Fitzwilliam won the St. Leger with Pewet, and the Prince of Wales, who was, with the Duke of York, a guest at Wentworth-house at the time, proved equally fortunate for the Gold Cup with Tot. We never remember to have seen him again in his wonted seat, side by side with his senior, Mr. Kirby, of York, under the grand-stand portico, chatting rather of old times than taking any very great interest in present running. Mr. Kirby still survives as the patriarch of the turf, of which Earl Jersey is, in common parlance, "The Father;" and the disciples of Isaac Walton have just, we believe, lost theirs in John Vincent, "the old fisherman of Alverton," who, true to his gentle craft, till he was ninety-six, desired nothing more to the last than to

Angle on, and beg to have
A quiet passage to the grave."

The twopenny toll on carts and waggons entering the City, if not the property of freemen, will cease on Monday. This antiquated and unpopular impost produced £6000 yearly to the Corporation; but the threatenings of reform induced them to relinquish it.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

SIR JAMES KEMPT.

GENERAL THE RIGHT HON. SIR JAMES KEMPT, G.C.B., Colonel of the 1st Regiment of Foot, died on the 20th inst., at his residence in South Audley-street, after a long illness. This distinguished officer had spent more than seventy-one years in the British service, and his career has been a very active one. He was son of Gavin Kempt, Esq., of Batley Hall, Hants, and of Edinburgh. He entered the Army on the 31st of March, 1783, and in 1799 obtained the rank of Lieut.-Colonel. In that year he accompanied Sir Ralph Abercromby upon the expedition to Holland, as Aide-de-Camp; and in 1800 proceeded with the same General as Military Secretary to the Mediterranean, remaining with him until his death; after which he was attached to the Staff of Lord Hutchinson, and was present throughout the whole of the Egyptian campaign. In 1806 Lieutenant-Colonel Kempt went as commander of a battalion with the expedition to Naples, and led the Light Brigade at the battle of Maida. He proceeded in 1811 to the Peninsula, to command a brigade in the Third Division of the Duke of Wellington's army. At the siege of Badajoz, Kempt headed the attack on Fort Picurina. He was there severely wounded. Kempt was a prominent officer at Vittoria, at the attack on the heights of Vera, at Niville, Nive, Orthes, Toulouse, and in several minor engagements. He was again severely wounded at Waterloo. He was created G.C.B. in 1815, and a G.C.H. in 1816. He was for some time Governor of Nova Scotia; he was made Master-General of the Ordnance and a Privy Councillor in 1830; he became a General in the Army in 1841. Sir James was a Knight of the Orders of Maria Theresa, St. George, and Wilhelm III.



SIR ROGER MARTIN, BART.

THIS venerable Baronet died at Burnham, Norfolk, on the 16th inst., aged 77. He was the only son of Sir Mordaunt Martin, 4th Bart., by Sophia Mordaunt, his wife, niece of the Earl of Peterborough, and great-great-grandson of Sir Roger Martin, of Long Melford, in Suffolk (the representative of an ancient family in that county), on whom a baronetcy was conferred March 28, 1667. Sir Roger, the subject of our present notice, entered the civil service of the East India Company at Bengal in 1795, and was for some years Senior Judge of the Court of Appeal at Moorheadabad. In 1815 he succeeded to the title at the death of his father, and in 1828 retired from the duties of his Indian employment. Sir Roger has died unmarried.



DR. FAGAN.

DOCTOR STEPHEN FAGAN, of Woodhill, Cork, and Albion-street, Hyde-park-square, London, A.M., M.B., Grad. Univ. Dublin, 1826, M.D., T.O.D., 1852, was born in the town of Dingle, county Kerry, Ireland, on the 1st March, 1800, and died on the 9th November, 1854, at Woodhill, Cork.

He was chief of his name, and representative of the ancient family of Fagan, who formerly possessed extensive estates in the county Dublin, which were forfeited in 1691, by Richard Fagan, of Feltrim, for his adhesion to King James II. Richard was a zealous adherent to King James, and distinguished himself at the siege of Derry, as commemorated in the quaint lines on the subject:—

Bellow left Duleek and his ancient hall
To see his monarch righted;
Fagan of Feltrim with Fingal
His cavalry united.
'Twas part of the plan that Lord Strahan
Should give his neighbours warning;
But they packed him off with a shot and scuff,
His hollow counsel scorned.

THE REV. DR. MARTIN JOSEPH ROUTH,
PRESIDENT OF MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD.

A little before eight o'clock on the 22nd inst., the venerable President of Magdalen College, the Rev. Dr. Martin Joseph Routh, died after a few days' illness. Dr. Routh was in his 100th year, and had held the Presidency of this College for sixty-three years, having been elected to it in 1791, when he succeeded Dr. George Horne. In 1820 he married Eliza-Agnes, daughter of John Blagrove, Esq., of Calcot-park, Reading.

Next week we hope to engrave the Portrait of this venerable centurion.

THE REV. RICHARD WALTON WHITE, M.A., F.S.A.

THIS gentleman, the Rector of Wotton, Isle of Wight, and Upcerne, co. Dorset, one of her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for Hampshire, and many years Chairman of the Petty Sessions for the Isle of Wight, died suddenly at Wotton, on the 2nd inst., aged 71. He married Mary, daughter and heiress of John Popham, Esq., of Shankling and Kitchell, Major Commandant of the Isle of Wight Militia (who was great-great-grandson of Alexander Popham, Esq., of Littlecott, M.P. for Somersetshire, and one of Cromwell's Upper House), and leaves issue.

LEON FAUCHER.

LEON FAUCHER was in early life an "agrégé de philosophie," and tutor in a private family. He, in 1830, became a journalist, and was connected with the *Temps*, the *Courrier Français*, and the *Constitutionnel* newspapers. In 1842 his direct connection with the public press ceased; but he wrote afterwards on questions of political economy. Amongst his most important productions were, "Etudes sur l'Angleterre," "Traux sur la Réforme des Prisons," "Recherches sur l'Or et l'Argent," and, more recently, a work on Russian finances. He was, in 1846, elected deputy for Rheims, in opposition to the great advocate M. Chaix d'Est Ange, and voted with the Opposition. He subsequently became one of the directors of the Strasbourg Railway. After the election of the 10th December, 1848, Léon Faucher was appointed Minister of Public Works, and subsequently Minister of the Interior. Both in the Assembly and in the Cabinet he vigorously opposed the Demagogue party: demanding the suppression of clubs; and insisting on a severe examination of the financial measures of the Provisional Government. He quitted public life with only a small fortune; and was highly and generally esteemed and respected.

HARRIET, MARCHIONESS CAMDEN.

THE death of this most estimable lady, which occurred on the 22nd inst., at Wildernesse-park, Kent, has caused the deepest sorrow. Her Ladyship was born February 8, 1813, the eldest daughter of the Right Rev. George Murray, Bishop of Rochester, by Sarah-Maria, his wife, daughter of Robert, ninth Earl of Kinnoull, and married, August 27, 1835, George Charles, present Marquis Camden, K.G., by whom she leaves eleven children, three sons and eight daughters. Lady Camden's paternal grandfather, Lord George Murray, Bishop of St. David's, was second son of John third Duke of Atholl.

WILLS.—The Rev. Henry Raikes, M.A., Chancellor of Chester, has left personally within the province of Canterbury alone amounting to £80,000, besides that in the province of York.—Major John Ward, H.E.I.C., Madras establishment, £20,000.—Kellings Greenway, Esq., of Botolph, Warwickshire, £50,000.—Mrs. Emily Lavinia Lenon, of Cheltenham, £70,600.

TESTIMONIAL.—On Thursday week, at a public dinner at the Freemasons' Tavern, Mr. T. M. Stone, who has been connected with the Royal College of Surgeons upwards of twenty years, was presented by the chairman, Mr. Henry Watson, F.R.C.S., with a handsome silver tea and coffee service and tray, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented, with a silver tea and coffee service, to Thomas Madden Stone, on his retirement from the office of Librarian to the Royal College of Surgeons of England, by a few members of the profession, to mark their approbation of his ready and courteous attention in fulfilling the duties of his office, and as an expression of their appreciation of his worth. 21st December, 1854."

TOWN AND TABLE-TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

THE death of Dr. Routh, the President of Magdalen College, Oxford, at the great age of ninety-nine, has furnished our contemporaries during the present Christmas week with many appropriate retrospective reflections. The *Times*, in a clever article—evidently written by a Magdalen man—would throw us some two centuries back, by reminding us that the aged President just removed from among us "had been told by a lady—of her aunt who had seen King Charles II. walking round the parks at Oxford during the memorable Plague year of 1665;" but this is an appeal to a third generation. It evidently did not occur to our contemporary that Dr. Routh might have had for his godfather—that same godfather living to see him in his third year—one who has described in print (and most ably too) his having seen King Charles II. feeding his ducks in St. James's Park; and, scarcely less remarkable, his having (to use his own expression) met the Revolution which confirmed one of the ablest of his predecessors in the important office of President of Magdalen College. When Colley Cibber died (in December, 1757), the late President of Magdalen College was in his third year. Colley might have stood godfather to the future President of Magdalen;—Colley might have delighted the boy Routh with some of those stage pleasantries which delighted nearly three generations of Englishmen. But, to pursue this further, the lips of the boy Routh (those very lips warm within a week of when we are writing) might have been kissed by the surviving child of Wilmot, Earl of Roehester.

Mr. Warren, the author of the well-known novel of "Ten Thousand a Year," and other works deservedly popular, has just published in his collected Essays a letter from Sir Walter Scott to himself; written when Sir Walter was the Great Unknown, and Warren was a boy ambitious of double distinction at the bar and in literature. Warren, with boyish and legal impertinence (pardonable only because boyish) seems to have addressed him as the convicted author of "The Waverley Novels." Sir Walter, in his kind and thoughtful reply, observes, that he is not the author of "those novels which the world chooses to ascribe to him;" and on this it has been urged by a contemporary that Scott has written a lie. We could have wished that our contemporary had somewhat softened his language. Scott's denial is even more excusable than a "not at home" denial when the parties asked for are really at home. Sir Walter considered himself entitled, like an accused person put upon trial, to refuse giving his own evidence to his own conviction, and to deny flatly all that could not be proved against him. Is a man's silence, when an impertinent question is asked of him, to be construed into a yes? Will not his refusal to reply be treated as a tacit acknowledgment of what he is asked? What says our great moralist on this point?—"I should have believed Burke to be Junius," said Johnson, "but Burke spontaneously denied it to me. The case would have been different had I asked him if he was the author; a man so questioned as to an anonymous publication may think he has a right to deny it."

The Report to the President of the Board of Control for the affairs of India just made by Mr. Macaulay (the historian), Lord Ashburton, and others, will, when adopted, effect one of the greatest changes that has ever been made in the educational courses of this country. The Civil Service of India is to be opened to the youth of the United Kingdom. There is to be no more Cannon-row or Leadenhall-street patronage. The son of a tailor in Tooley-street may offer himself in competition with one who has all the blood of the Howards in his veins; and if he has more mind and education than the competing Howard, the tailor's son will obtain the appointment. The Report bears the mint-mark of Mr. Macaulay's mind in every part; and so obvious has this been to his fellow Commissioners—to Lord Ashburton especially—that the brilliant Commoner signs the report before the able Peer. The Messrs. Longman should reprint the Report uniformly with the several editions of Mr. Macaulay's Essays. Let us add that it behoves every parent in the three kingdoms to make himself master of its contents. When the recommendation of the Reporters are put into practice, the memorable saying that education in England has been endangered by some of her most eminent sons will, thanks to Mr. Macaulay, be no longer applicable to the present generation. The Report has taken a comprehensive view not only of the educational wants of India, but of Great Britain at large. The studies of Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, and Dublin, have one and all had proper attention paid to them in this masterly scheme of education in the nineteenth century.

The lovers of English Art will hear with regret that the original and only painting of Martin's "Belshazzar's Feast" was so seriously injured in a late railway accident (it was on its way from Liverpool to Mr. Taylor's) that all chance of successful restoration is, it is said, hopeless. This great loss is, however, the less to be regretted, when we reflect what a masterly engraving of it we possess by its own designer and painter. How soon and how completely may the best existing proofs of a great artist's skill be destroyed! A fire, or the act of a madman, might reduce to nothing the single picture which sustains the reputation of an artist so well known as Paul Potter.

The nominal head of the well-known firm of Simpkin and Marshall, of Stationer's-hall-court, died during the present week. He retired from business, some twenty years ago, on a handsome annuity.

The fear seems to be confirmed that the open space at the east end of St. Paul's Cathedral will be built over. Mr. Tite, the architect, is fighting for the open space with equal ability and perseverance; but Government is still against him in the matter, and the City hardly, we fear, with him. The value of the space, as we have already had occasion to record, is £60,000, which it is proposed should be paid for out of one year's additional duty upon coal.

The choice things at Mr. Croker's sale sold well—the Irish antiquities especially. Two ancient Irish war trumpets of bronze were secured for the British Museum—one at £25, the other at £12. The Charter Horn sold for £17 10s. The Ormonde Papers, in six volumes folio, brought £130; and the Orrery Letters, in two volumes, £60. The first five editions of Walton's "Angler" produced £29 10s.

Whilst on the subject of sales, we may announce that the collection of the late Mr. Thomas Windus, F.S.A., will pass under the hammer of the auctioneer during the forthcoming season.

A FRIGHTFUL SPECTACLE.—An exhibition is now taking place at the Cirque Napoléon, Paris, the perilous nature of which nightly attracts there a large crowd of spectators. A young girl (Mlle. Borely) enters a cage in which two lions, a lioness, a bear, and a hyena, are enclosed. These animals appear to live in the greatest harmony with each other and their youthful tamer; but it is fearful to contemplate the consequences of an instant of ill-humour in this "happy family" to poor Mlle. B. while putting its members through their exercises.

AMERICAN COMMERCE.—The Secretary of the United States Treasury has prepared an informal summary of the annual commerce and navigation reports, from which it appears that the imports of foreign merchandise during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1854, were a fraction over £60,000,000. The exports of domestic produce were between 50 and 52 millions sterling. The exports of breadstuffs and provisions were somewhat in excess of 10 millions sterling. The difference between the imports and exports was made up in Californian gold, stocks, and mercantile obligations. The revenue from Customs was about £13,000,000, and from all other sources £16,000,000.

The bakers of Paris have decided that, according to a resolution adopted on the 28th ult., and approved by the Prefect of Police, they will present to the Administration, for distribution amongst the necessitous classes, 275,000 kilogrammes of bread of the first quality, instead of making presents to the servants of their customers on New Year's Day.



THE "VALOROUS" CHASING RUSSIAN STEAMERS INTO SEBASTOPOL.

RUSSIAN STEAMERS SHELLING THE FRENCH CAMP.

Two Russian steamers performed a very daring exploit on the 6th inst. One was a steam-frigate, and the other the *Vladimir*, which is constantly on the move in the roadstead, and had often annoyed us with a gun of long range. At half-past one on that day the Russian frigate suddenly moved from its position not far from the entrance to Careening Bay, and proceeded under full steam towards the entrance of the roadstead. As she passed along, a rapid discharge of shells was made against the new English batteries on the right, especially a square redoubt placed so as to command some of the Russian ships on the south side of the inlet—the guns of which, however, were not yet mounted. The movement of the Russian frigate became an object of general attention to all the troops on the heights from which a view of the roadstead could be obtained. To the surprise of all, she went past Fort Nicholas and Cape Alexander, and pursued her course boldly out to sea, attended by the *Vladimir*. Her object was soon explained. Rounding the Quarantine Fort and Harbour, she stood off beyond that part of the coast where are said to be the ruins of ancient Chersonesus, and then commenced to throw shot and shell towards the French works, which were thus enfiladed by her guns. The *Valorous* got up her steam as quickly as possible, and also a French steam line-of-battle ship. As soon as they were able to move down upon the adventurous Russian vessel, they of course compelled her to desist from her fire against the French works, and drove her to seek for shelter again within the batteries of the roadstead. Both she and the *Vladimir*, who appeared to act as an attendant upon her, got safely back. The *Valorous*, chasing

them too closely in, was fired upon by Fort Constantine, and also by some battery on the height above. Some of the shots must have gone very close to her, if they did not actually strike. Why the Russian vessel chose the broad daylight for such an exploit, instead of proceeding under cover of the darkness of night, is a mystery; unless it was designedly planned with a view of bringing some of our vessels within range of the guns of Sebastopol.

We have been favoured by Lieutenant Edgar G. Bredin, Royal Artillery, with the accompanying Sketch, taken from a French redoubt, the guns of which are manned by the French navy. Two large Russian steamers came out through the sunken men-of-war, and went down opposite the French lines and shelled them—there being only two small French steamers (the *Megere* and *Dauphin*) to oppose them, which they did most manfully, and drew the fire of the Russian ships on themselves. Meanwhile, an English vessel steamed up, and drove the Russians in. All the guns of Fort Constantine and the batteries above it opened upon her: she gave them a few shots in return, and "sheered off."

THE "VALOROUS," OFF SEBASTOPOL.

(From a Correspondent.)

ON December 6th, at one p.m., a French steamer stationed at some distance from the entrance of the harbour of Sebastopol, but in advance of the rest of the fleet, was observed to fire two guns in rapid succession; and almost immediately after, the mast-heads of a Russian steamer

appeared over the low land towards the harbour mouth, and before many minutes had passed, another was seen following her. The first proved to be a heavy paddle-wheel frigate; and the second a small sloop. An alarm was immediately given, and in a few minutes our cable was slipped, and we were in full chase of our expected prizes, who had opened fire on a battery in course of erection at the entrance of the Kamiesch and Kazatch harbours, where the whole of the French transports and several men-of-war are at anchor, including both the French and English flag-ships. As we neared them, however, they turned tail and ran back under the batteries; we continued to follow them till we were within 1000 yards of the forts, firing several shots after them, but with what effect could not be seen, as the forts and batteries now opened fire on us, and engaged our attention. We gave them several broadsides in return; but as we could, of course, make no impression on these stone walls, and were getting a pretty heavy dose of shot and shell—which cut away our rigging in several places, and completely destroyed one of our boats—we hauled off, leaving the fugitives under the shelter of their (to us) impregnable walls, while we returned to our anchorage, fortunately without the loss of a single man killed or wounded. Several other steamers fired a few shots during the time we were engaged; and the little Frenchman, who was first attacked, kept close behind us the whole time. The afternoon surprise has shown us that we must keep a bright look-out on the enemy's movements. They have remained quiet so long that their sortie took us by surprise; and, had it been at night, they might have done considerable damage.



RUSSIAN STEAMERS SHELLING THE FRENCH CAMP, SEBASTOPOL.

THE BATTLE OF INKERMANN.

I.
SEBASTOPOL lay shrouded
In thick November gloom,
And through the midnight silence
The guns had ceased to boom.
The sentinel outworn
In waiting for the morn,
From Balaclava's heights,
Beheld the Russian lights,
In the close-beleaguered fortress far adown;
And heard a sound of bells
Watted upwards through the dells,
And a roar of mingling voices and of anthems from the town.

II.
They prayed the God of Justice
To aid them in the wrong,
They consecrated Murder
With jubilee and song.
To the slain, the joys of Heaven,—
To the living, sin forgiven,—
Were the promises divine
That were passed along the line,
As they gathered in their myriads ere the dawn;
While their priests in full accord,
Chanted glory to the Lord,
And blessed the Russian banner and the sword for battle drawn.

III.
Stealthily and darkly,
Amid the rain and sleet,—
No trumpet-call resounding,
Nor drums' tempestuous beat;
But shadow-like, and slow,
Came the legions of the foe,
Moving dimly up the steep
Where the British Camp, asleep,
Lay unconscious of the danger lurking near;
And the soldier, breathing hard,
On the cold and sodden sward,
Dreamed of victory and glory, or of home and England dear.

IV.
Hark! Heard ye not a rumbling
On the misty morning air—
Like the rush of rising tempests
When they shake the forest bare?
The outposts on the hill
Hear it close, and closer still.
'Tis the tramp of iron heels,
'Tis the crash of cannon wheels.
And "To arms!" "to arms!" "to arms!" is the cry.
"Tis the Russians on our flank!
Up, and arm each British rank!
And meet them, gallant Guardsmen, to conquer or to die."

V.
Then rose the loud alarm
With a hurricane of sound,
And from short uneasy slumber
Sprang each hero from the ground;
Sprang each horseman to his steed,
Ready saddled for his need;
Sprang each soldier to his place,
With a stern, determined face;
While the rousing drum and bugle echoed far,
And the crack of rifles rang,
And the cannon found a tongue,
And down upon them bursting came the avalanche of war.

VI.
Through the cold and foggy darkness
Sped the rocket's fiery breath,
And the light of rapid volleys,
In a haze of Living Death;
But each English heart that day
Throbb'd impetuous for the fray,
And our hosts undaunted stood
Besting back the raging flood—
That came pouring from the valley, like a sea,
Casting havoc on the shore,
With a dull and sullen roar,—
The thunder-cloud above it and the lightning flashing free.

VII.
On darkness grew the daylight,
'Mid the loud incessant peal;
On the daylight followed noontide,—
And they struggled steel to steel!
O ye gallant souls and true!
O ye great immortal few!
On your banner, bright unfurled,
Shone the freedom of the world.
In your keeping lay the safety of the lands—
Lay the splendour of our name—
Lay our glory and our fame;
And ye held and raised them all in your dauntless hearts
and hands!

VIII.
For a moment, and one only,
Seemed the Russians to prevail:
O brave eight thousand heroes!
Ye shall conquer! They shall fail!
They can face you—if they must—
But they fly your bayonet thrust.
And hark! the ringing cheer
That proclaims the French are near,
And is heard above the raging battle din!
Giving courage to the brave—
Striking terror to the slave,—
A signal and an omen of the victory to win!

IX.
Break forth, thou storm of battle,
With a new and wild uproar!
Beam out, thou flag of England,
With thy sister tricolor!
For, fighting side by side,
One in spirit, heart allied—
In the cause of truth combined,
For the freedom of mankind—
France and England show the world what may be done;
And their star of glory burns
And the tide of battle turns,
And the beaten Russians fly, and the victory is won.

X.
Thus fourteen thousand freemen,
Invincible in right,
Defeated seventy thousand,
In fierce unequal fight!
Thus Thermopylae of old
And its men of Titan mould
Were surpassed, at duty's call,
By the Briton and the Gaul:—
(May the splendour of their friendship never wane!)
By the men who fighting fell
With Cathcart and Lourmel,
Or lived with placid Raglan, avengers of the slain.

XI.
And as long as France and England
Shall give birth to manlike men,
Their deeds shall be remembered
Should the battle burst again;
And to actions as sublime
Shall inspire each future time.
And when War's alarms shall cease,
And the nations live in peace,
Safe from Tyranny, its murder, and its ban,—
Let us tell with generous pride
How our heroes fought and died,
And saved a threatened world on the heights of Inkermann!

CHARLES MACKAY.



MONASTERY OF ST. GEORGE, NEAR BALACLAVA.—FROM A SKETCH BY LIEUT. MONTAGU O'REILLY.

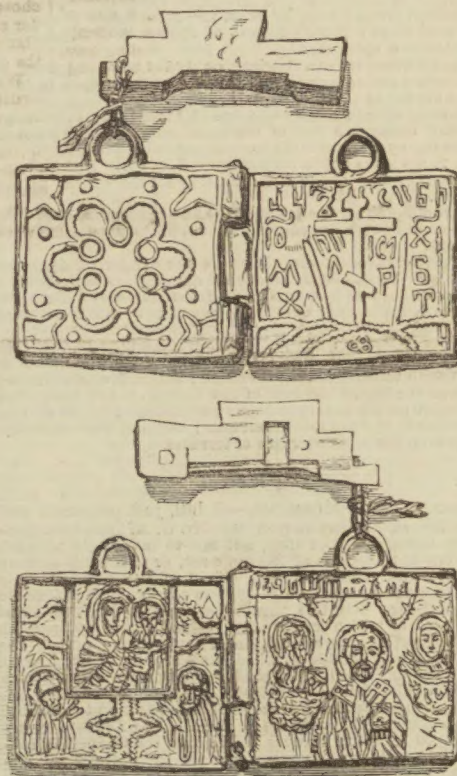
This Monastery—chosen with the usual cleverness which monks of all countries and ages display in the choice of their dwelling-places—is situated on the precipitous side of a little bay running in from Cape Feolente. It seems evidently an institution on getting into fashion, for everywhere you see traces of new, half-finished buildings, while even those which are completed seem still quite new. There are now fifteen monks remaining; twelve others are with the Russian army, where they do business as chaplains. The Monastery is guarded by a body of Zouaves under a sergeant, and there was some intention of converting it into an hospital; but the gale of the 14th has unroofed nearly all the houses, and even torn down the iron plates from the church roof, so that the repairs would give quite as much trouble as the building of a wooden shed for the same purpose. During the gale the Zouaves, as well as all the rest of the inmates, had to retire to the "hospitium"—an out-building erected for the accommodation of pious pilgrims who come to drink the delicious waters of St. George's Well, of miraculous power, and implore the chivalrous saint's protection. For an ordinary traveller the beauty of the spot would be quite sufficient reward. Even now, although everything wears the bleak autumnal tinge, it is one of the loveliest spots imaginable, with its white terraces, huge rocks, and dark woods, overlooking the wide expanse of the Euxine. Mr. Scott, in his recent travels in the Crimea, paid a visit to this spot, which he thus describes:—

We descended by a narrow zigzag path, cut in the face of the mountain, on every nook or ledge of which the monks have planted tree and flowers, making little terraced gardens in the midst of the black charred cliffs. From the shore we looked up and perceived the monastery, some hundreds of feet above us, and fifty feet beneath the summit of the precipice.

Near to us on the right hand as we faced the sea, was a great isolated, basaltic rock, rising above its neighbours.

The monastery of St. George hangs, as it were, to the face of the cliff, and the only entrance to it is by a door and flight of steps cut into the rock at its summit. From a little terrace in front, a magnificent view over the Black Sea is obtained, and projecting into it on the left is the Aya Bouroun, or sacred promontory, on which also a temple of Diana is believed, by some to have stood.

Crowds of pilgrims go to this monastery on the 23rd of April, the fête day of St. George, when the plateau near it puts on the appearance of an immense fair; booths, tents, and huts are erected in great numbers, and all kinds of things are sold at the various stalls. Nearly the whole of the Greek population of the Crimea flock there. It is most especially popular with the fair sex, and report says, that on these occasions, when the Greek women display their charms to the greatest advantage, there is an assemblage of beauty rarely to be met with elsewhere.



RUSSIAN AMULET.



AMBULANCE FOR THE WOUNDED.

A RUSSIAN AMULET.

In describing the dress of the Russians who fell at Alma, most of the accounts refer to the amulets worn by the Muscovite soldiers. One of these relics of the battle-field has been forwarded to us, of which we give an illustration in this week's publication. It consists of a small pewter locket, the workmanship very rude. The most prominent figure on the outside is a cross, surrounded with Russian characters. A small piece of wood attached by a string shows the remains of a Greek Cross, in the centre of which a metallic Roman cross appears to have been inlaid. On one leaf of the inside a rude figure of the Virgin and Child has been stamped, with two devout figures praying to her. On the other side the artist appears to have represented a Christ; but, either from the effects of time or rough usage, the lineaments of the countenance are not very well pronounced.

AMBULANCE FOR THE WOUNDED.

From time to time, many alterations have been made in the "Ambulance" or Hospital-cart, for removing the wounded from the battle-field; and at Woolwich Arsenal many of these "improved" models are still to be seen. We engrave the Ambulance which is generally employed. It is a light two-wheeled vehicle, on indiarubber springs. In front is a seat capable of accommodating four persons, who are not incapacitated by their wounds from sitting upright—a broad leather strap, buckled in front, giving them increased security. In the interior of the vehicle, stretchers are slung lengthwise, for a similar number, whose wounds are of a more serious nature. Should circumstances render immediate amputation necessary, a board is let down behind, and serves for an amputating-table. Various appliances for the comfort of the wounded, including a vessel for heating water, broth, &c., are snugly packed underneath.

This model was greatly approved of by the Emperor of the French, who has since had a large number constructed for the French army on the same plan.

RESULT OF THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC—1854.

The cholera in 1848-49 (15 months) was fatal to 14,593 persons; in the last epidemic, extending from August, 1853, to November, 1854 (16 months), 11,495 persons fell victims. Allowing for increase of population, the deaths to every 10,000 living give an average of 64 in the former, and 46 in the latter. By cholera and diarrhoea together the deaths were in—

1848-49	68,431	81 in 10,000
1853-54	15,762	63 in "

DISPARITY BETWEEN THE DISTRICTS.—Two (the North and Central) suffer a mortality of only 16 in 10,000 living, while the South has 93 of every 10,000 cut off by the disease. In the report on cholera in 1849 by the Registrar-General, it is said, that the elevation of the soil in London has a more constant relation with the mortality from cholera than any other known element—the mortality being in the inverse ratio of the elevation; and so exactly has this been verified in the present epidemic, that a scale of premium might safely have been drawn out in 1849 to rule in 1854, to the following effect:—For a person of average condition, dwelling under 20 feet of elevation, the premium to insure £1000 would be £12; while for those living at from 100 to 350 feet elevation the life office would be secure with a £3 premium.

The following facts worked out by the Registrar-General, show distinctly the inverse relation that the mortality of cholera bears to the elevation of the ground:—

182,566 of the people in London in 1851 lived upon sub-districts covering 2849 acres of the marsh ground, ranging from three feet below to one foot above the high-water mark; 2962 died there of cholera in 1849, and 2227 in 1854, or 4920 in the two epidemics.

263,914 of the population in sub-districts, on 12,146 acres of ground of eighty feet of elevation and upwards, lost 398 persons by cholera in 1849, and 272 in 1854, or 670 in the two epidemics.

12,824 persons died of cholera in the two years 1849 and 1854 on the 18,429 acres of low ground under ten feet of elevation, out of a population of 695,119; while in the same years, out of the more numerous population, 682,705 persons, living on 21,909 acres of the higher ground of sixty feet and upwards, only 2949 persons died of cholera, including all the deaths in the district of St. James.

On the lowest ground, taking the mean of the two epidemics, 13 in 1000 of the population—on the highest ground, 1 in 1000 of the population were destroyed by cholera.

At the intermediate stages of elevation was the danger of dying by cholera intermediate? To solve this important question, as regarded the epidemic of 1849, London was first sub-divided into terraces differing 20 feet in elevation; and, if the same course is pursued now, it is found that in the two epidemic years 15,662 persons died of cholera on the first terrace, under 20 feet of elevation; 3757 on the second terrace of ground, 20 feet and under 40 feet high; 2301 on the third terrace, 40 and under 60 feet; 2279 on the fourth terrace, 60 to 80 feet high; 392 on the fifth terrace, 80 to 100 feet; 278 on the higher terraces of 100 feet up to 350 feet. The population was 850,000 on the lowest terrace; and about equal, or 400,000, on the second, the third, and the fourth terraces; while it was 142,000 on the fifth, and 121,000 on the higher terrace or terraces.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS.—A bill, just prepared and brought in by Mr. Ewart, Mr. Brotherton, and Mr. G. A. Hamilton, proposes to repeal the Library Act of 1850; but not to invalidate by such repeal anything done in pursuance of the same act, or to disturb already established libraries and museums. The object of the bill is simply to extend the benefits of the measure of 1850 to towns governed under local acts, and to parishes. For this purpose it requires the Council of any municipal borough of which the population shall exceed 5000 persons to call a public meeting, on the requisition of ten persons paying the borough rate, in order to determine whether this Act shall be adopted for the said municipal borough; and, if at such meeting two-thirds of the persons present and qualified as aforesaid shall determine that the Act ought to be adopted, the same shall thenceforth take effect and come into operation in such borough. The expenses of carrying the Act into execution are to be defrayed from the borough fund; and the Council is empowered, if it think fit, to levy a separate rate for the purpose. "Improvement Boards" may adopt the Act and charge the expense on the improvement rate, if the previous requisitions with regard to population and the decision of two-thirds of a public meeting be complied with. Parishes with the same population (5000) may adopt the Act, with the consent of two-thirds of the ratepayers, and the vestry will then appoint from three to seven Commissioners from the ratepayers to carry the act into effect, to dispose of lands, and to sue and be sued as a body corporate. One-third of this Commission will go out of office annually. The expenses are to be paid out of the poor-rates. The vestries of two or more neighbouring parishes, having an aggregate population, exceeding 5000 persons, may conjointly adopt the Act in the manner already described, the expenses to be borne in proportion; and three Commissioners may be appointed by each parish to manage the library or museum. No rate levied for the purposes of this Act in any borough, district, or parish, is to exceed one penny in the pound. The Councils are empowered to borrow sums of money for the purposes of the Act, with the approval of her Majesty's Treasury, and the Public Works Loan Commissioners are empowered to advance such sums of money. Lands, &c., may be appropriated, purchased, or rented, for the purposes of this Act. The general management and control of the libraries and museums formed under this Act is to be vested in the Councils of boroughs, in the boards of districts, and in the Commissioners of parishes; and all real or personal property purchased for any library or museum is to be vested in the same respectively. All libraries and museums established under this Act are to be open to the public free of all charge.

THE AMERICAN FINANCIAL CRISIS.—I am glad to state that there is a slight, but a positive improving stock-market, and that an upward tendency is visible in our monetary affairs. We are very rapidly paying our European debt. The steamer to-day does not take out much specie, and the two previous steamers have taken scarcely any at all. The Bank of England seems to have replenished its vaults. We have had an arrival of a million and a half of gold from California; and another and still larger arrival is looked for. We have the prospect of the largest cotton crop ever raised; our crops generally have not been so short as we feared. A new kind of economy, to which we have long been unaccustomed, has become the order of the day; luxuries, gew-gaws, and all sorts of bijouteries, are selling for nothing, while the necessities of life are at a premium. This is a great and terrible commercial revulsion, but Europe will hear of no 1837 now. There will be no repudiation of our debts by States; and very few of the corporations will be allowed to go on any further than they can make their ability to pay manifest to the parties interested. In other words, we are sound still, although we are, for the moment, partially paralysed. The banking-houses, and the banks of the west and south, have gone down, and are going, day by day; still we have a sound circulating medium, and we have money enough, high as its rate may be in the market, for the transaction of all necessary business. The whole nation is learning a lesson of economy which will do us good. The stringency in the Money-market has come on gradually, and gradually will it move off; but thus far it is safe to say, that few or no men or institutions have failed, except those that were rotten in the best of times.—Letter from New York, December 13.

On Monday last the provision with respect to dogs being used for the purpose of draught came into force. Dogs are not to be used throughout the United Kingdom to draw trucks, barrows, &c., under penalties. The Act is the 17th and 18th Vict., c. 69.

THE THEATRES, &c.

PANTOMIMES.

DRURY-LANE.—As might have been expected from the extraordinary preparations so solicitously made, the pantomime at this theatre has met with remarkable success: it is entitled "Jack and Jill; or, Harlequin King Mustard and the Four-and-Twenty Blackbirds Baked in a Pie," and is indebted for its highly-meritorious introduction to Mr. E. L. Blanchard. The plot is, of course, founded upon the ancient nursery legends suggested by the title; but the author has evidently employed them as the means of allegorising the art of cookery. Jill finding her father's last will and testament, discovers that, according to its provisions, she "must not a husband take, till she a pie can make and bake." Accordingly, the interesting heroine proceeds to seek instruction from Mrs. Glass of ancient culinary celebrity. The lessons she thus receives are given after a very novel fashion. All the various kitchen requisites become animated, and detail their own uses in gastronomic practice. The Kettle, in a song, introduces Jill to his companions Saucepan and Gridiron. Jill is also initiated into the country of condiments. She visits the Court of King Mustard, who lives in Cruet Castle, on the Tablecloth Territory. Here she becomes acquainted with the family of the Peppers, the empress Vinegar, and the pungent Cayenne. A review of the "Army of Zests," with a humorous embodiment of all the well-known relishes, constitutes, indeed, a great feature of the opening. "Chutney's Abode, in the Province of Pickles," is next visited by Jill; where the Pickles, prepared by Vinegar, mislead Jill, and take her to the "Stupendous Salt Mines," where the fairy Preserves comes to her aid. The scene then changes to the "Gorgeous Temple of Salad," where the usual transformations take place: Jill becomes Columbine; Jack, Harlequin; and King Mustard, Clown. The pantomime cast is very strong, including the names of Milano, Boleto, Wilkins (a clever sprite), and the far-famed Italian Brothers. The models by the great Dyk-wynkin are amazingly funny; and the scenery, by Messrs. Nicholls and Cuthbert, is unusually splendid. The final tableau, with the "Glistening Temple," revolving columns, the "Allied Army Quadrilles," Juliette the younger, and the terrific flight of the Italian Brothers from the gallery to the stage, closes the pantomime with a series of triumphs. The merit of these contrivances is indisputable; and both for literary and scenic excellence, the pantomime at this house may compete with the most gorgeous at any other. It was preceded by Lillo's prose tragedy of "George Barnwell"—of which, happily, no one heard a syllable.

HAYMARKET.—Mr. Buckstone has, as we predicted, depended on the drawing-room refinement and elegance of his pantomime, founded on the nursery-legend of "Little Bo-peep, who lost her sheep." According to his account, the heroine was a pretty Arcadian shepherdess, very good, yet having one fault—that of sleeping by day; which, considering the beauty of an Arcadian sunrise, as represented in one of the scenes, was almost unpardonable. It should have been sufficient to keep her wide awake for the whole of the day. A wolf falls in love with her; but, being rejected, takes revenge on her sheep—steals them, and cuts off their tails, which he hangs on a tree to dry. Her grandmother, who is a fairy, appears to her in a dream, and shows her the consequences of her lazy habit, and the advantages of diligence. A vision visits her slumbers of a group of beautiful shepherdesses playing and dancing in a labyrinth grove, beautifully painted by Mr. Calcott. On awaking, Bo-peep goes in search of her stray lambs; and, by a bargain with a mercenary cowherd in the pay of the wolf, gets back her sheep, tails and all. Colin, her lover, watches them during the night; but new difficulties ultimately require the intervention of the fairy, and the usual transformations. There is much more of joking in this pantomime than customary in these degenerate days—much more of temporary allusion, and in the mock-heroic vein. The "American Baby-Show" told well; and one change of scene, from an interior to an exterior, with ladies seated first in a salon and next in a carriage, was calculated to excite especial wonder, so cleverly was it designed and adroitly managed. The piece has been also the medium of introducing a new Clown, Mr. Appleby, who is well qualified for the courtly office of fool. In some respects the present pantomime is better than its predecessor, and that is saying no little in its favour.

PRINCESS.—Mr. C. Kean has exhibited in his pantomime this year his usual laudable ambition to excel. It is, indeed, brilliantly appointed, and possessed of specific and extraordinary merits. The subject is one well known, as its title "may specify"—to wit, "Harlequin and Blue Beard, the Great Bashaw, or the Good Fairy Triumphant over the Demon of Discord." The introduction is prepared by Mr. J. M. Morton, whose works of this nature are generally characterised by a classical severity which raises them in literary value. There is much semblance of passion in his demon *Rustic-Justi*, and the incantation-scenes remind us of "Macbeth" and "Der Freischütz"—they are, indeed, accompanied with snatches of music from Locke and Weber. The practical jokes enacted in the "Blue-beard" scenes, would serve as materials for a score of farces; and the scenic decorations are such as might enrich the most gorgeous of spectacles. The change of the old witches into young fairies was not only effective, but enchanting. A scene painted by Mr. Gordon, of a Turkish village and a mountainous country was really magnificent. Nor must the highest credit be denied to Mr. F. Lloyds for that in which the transformations occur, representing the "Illuminated Temple of Concord," the mechanical portions of which, by Mr. Bradwell, are also exceedingly effective. But, for bustle and effect, nothing might be compared with the quarter-deck, by the same artist, of the "Royal Albert, of 131 guns,"—the engagement and the victory were symbolised to the life. The final tableau presented one of those marvellous pieces that realise, mechanically—such air-suspensions of angelic appearances, as give so much éclat to "Faust and Marguerite." We need not state how well the whole was acted—when we mention that Mr. Hulme was Clown, Mr. Cormack Harlequin, Mr. Paulo Pantaloon, and Miss Desborough Columbine, we "make assurance doubly sure." We are happy to perceive that Mr. Kean takes the opportunity of the Christmas week to present himself in some of his legitimate characters—the *Stranger*, and *Sir Edward Mortimer*, in the "Iron Chest." In both these characters we always have seen him with more than ordinary satisfaction.

LYCEUM.—Mr. W. Brough and Mr. Beverley are the twin-genii to whom the fortunes of this theatre at this important season have been entrusted by Mr. C. Mathews. Mr. Brough's Barlesque is always richly appointed; superabundant, indeed, with wit, jest, and humour, and overflows with allusion, parody, and fun. His merits are in excess. Though he lacks, therefore, the point and finish which Mr. Planché gives to his productions, there is a life-like exuberance in the joviality and bacchic sincerity of his mirth which is irresistible. There is an earnestness, so to speak, in his barlesque, which makes extravagance look like reality. "Prince Petty-pet and the Butterfly" is replete with whim, conceit, and grave absurdity. King Cocalorum (Mr. Frank Mathews), the father of the youth (Miss Harriet Gordon) who is enamoured of the Butterfly, is one of those sleepy monarchs whom impatient subjects dream of dethroning, and his wife succeeds in henpecking to her heart's content. Queen Peccapeppa was appropriately supported by Mrs. F. Mathews. The Butterfly pursued by the Prince is the daughter (Miss Fanny Terman) of the fairy Butterfly Queen (Miss M. Oliver), but for the time in the power of the King of the Bees (Mr. James Bland), from which, however, the Prince succeeds in delivering the fair captive. The bridal of the happy pair is celebrated in the Crystalline Haunt of the Butterflies, an exquisite scene, crowded with brilliant accessories. The rest of the drama is occupied with the machinations of the Beele King to disturb the happiness of the married couple. These malignant attempts are, however, speedily defeated; and the spectacle closes with a splendid exhibition of the Throne of the Butterfly Queen, dazzling the eye with its variously-coloured magnificence. The acting and singing were throughout excellent—the latter, by Miss Gordon and Miss Terman (a debutante), especially. The arrangement of the music was by Mr. Tully. Both Mr. Brough and Mr. Beverley were summoned before the curtain.

MARYLEBONE.—The amalgam which we had predicted of "Young Norval" and "Lord Ullin's daughter," appeared in the shape of a pantomime on Boxing-night, under a title, including both hero and heroine. The pantomime commences with the resolve of Barbarism in full Court assembled, to stay the progress of Civilisation. Young Norval (Mr. Shalders) is soon after presented studying a huge book—not of martyrs, but battles; inspired by the contents of which he successfully resists the robber horde by whom his especial locale was infested. The "Scottish fées in Lord Holland's Park" were capably burlesqued. The "Wreck of the Lovers" is also well managed, and the transformations, indeed, are most splendidly illustrated; the extraordinary depth of the stage much aiding the effect. There are two Clowns, Messrs. Walbourn and

Tanner, both "excellent fools" as any in the forest of Arden. The pantomime was preceded by "The Lady and the Devil." The house was excessively crowded.

SADLER'S WELLS.—The pantomime at this theatre is entitled "Harlequin Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves; or, Morgana and the Arabian Nights." The subject of this piece may be said, by way of distinction, to be even æsthetic—hard and inappropriate as the term may seem to the treatment of something supposed to be so unphilosophic as this sort of drama. The aim is a serious one—to point a moral *à propos* of the stage. The imaginative is here successfully opposed to the melodramatic and terpsichorean, and the triumph of the spectacle is awarded to the legitimate drama. Mr. Greenwood treats all other forms of stage-art as "exhausted fountains of amusement," and leads his characters through various changes to the inexhaustible in the poetic play. The scenery of the introduction in which this truth is enforced is very cleverly painted by Mr. Fenton. The Palace of Imagination in the realm of Fancy is worthy of the theme. The comic scenes are full of bustle. The Columbine (Mdlle. Nathalie) is exceedingly good; Mr. C. Fenton was graceful as Harlequin, and Mr. N. Deulin, as Clown, humorous and efficient. The performance was perfectly successful; and, if only for the idea sought to be embodied, merits more than usual attention.

ADELPHI.—It is somewhat difficult to describe the spectacle at this house, which is an elaborate allegory on some of the events of the war, strangely entitled "Zigzag Travels of Messrs. Danube and Pruth, with numerous Cuts." Miss Woolgar represents the *River King* reposing on the bed of the Danube, but soon disturbed with the noise of cannon, and visited by King Pruth (Mrs. Keeley); whereupon both Potentates denounce the Russian Autocrat, and are joined by the Black Sea and the Baltic in their defiance. The *Spirit of Civilization* also descends in a diving-bell, and promises to protect the Allied Monarchs on their proposed ascent to Earth, which they visit in the disguise of a member of the Peace Society, a Quakeress, a Magyar, and his companion. Wallachian peasants serve to fill up the subsequent scenes, whose bridal festivities are interrupted by some Cossacks, headed by a tax-collector (Mr. Selby), and a ukase for a levy of men and children. The Cossacks are guilty of acts of plunder—lamp-oil and railway-grease being especially the objects of their cupidity. But the women come to the rescue; and, armed with brooms and pokers, put the marauders to flight. A more regular battle closes the first act, when the scene changes to "Odessa," and the Russian commander is shown fabricating false or exaggerated despatches. "St. Petersburg" next appears, and a procession of prisoners takes place. The "Aland Islands," and the landing of the Allies succeeds; when Paul Bedford, as an English corporal, contrives to make himself understood by the French, whom he invites to dinner, and the occasion is celebrated with toasts and songs of the right martial sort. "Eupatoria" and the Russians have next their turn; and then various freaks of fortune occur—which are triumphantly closed with a grand combat, in which the Russians are subdued. The scenery of this piece is uniformly striking, and the costumes are excellent. There is also some capital dancing, in which Mdlle. Marquita distinguished herself. This spectacle may be cited as unique, and cannot fail to prove immensely attractive.

ST. JAMES'S.—Mr. Francis Talfourd, in his extravaganza at this house, on the subject of "Abon Hassan; or, the Hunt after Happiness," has evinced his usual ambition to unite with the eccentricity of pun and burlesque the merit of dramatic character. He shows, besides, his affection for and acquaintance with the bar, by providing his audience with a bevy of foreign ladies—not old, but young—who compose a fairy Court of Quarter Sessions. "Abon Hassan" has been made romantic by a delinquent sister, the fairy *Egvanoceta*, who is accordingly banished from fairy land, until she restores contentment to the mind of her "inspired idiot." Poor Hassan, as we know from the tale is placed by the Caliph and his Vizier in the positions that he emulates, and made to taste the miseries of high office when attempted to be filled by the incompetent. In the resulting incongruities there is fun enough, which was well brought out into full relief by the performers, Miss Marshall, Mr. Toole, and Mr. Sydney. Some of the songs were excellent: the whole, indeed, commanded the plaudits of a fashionable audience.

On Saturday the tragedy of "Macbeth" was performed for the third time by amateurs—the profits being for the benefit of St. Mark's Hospital, City-road. The average rate of merit was far above the usual amateur level; indeed, the acting of *Macbeth*, by Mr. Joy—who imitates the general style of Mr. Charles Kean admirably—was very satisfactory. He was often and deservedly applauded. Miss Glyn's *Lady Macbeth* was distinguished by a rapidity and force of elocution greater than usual, combined with a calm and self-possessed dignity which gave to the sentiment of power a terrible significance. The entire performance was well-conducted; and the audience, which was select and fashionable, had reason to be, as they were, well pleased with the play and the players.

OLYMPIC.—The management have done well in securing the assistance of Mr. Planché in providing a fairy extravaganza for the season. Resorting in general, as in the present instance, to the Countess d'Aulnoy for his story, this dramatist reproduces its incidents and points of interest with the utmost precision—esteeming, as it would appear, fidelity to the original author as the first condition of success. We know that Shakespeare did the same even to the extent of adopting arrangements that now seem to us to impair the theatrical effect. No doubt, however, the great poet was right in principle; and Mr. Planché has proved by long practice that the plan, with all its drawbacks, leads in the long run to safety and triumph. The present piece, founded on the story of "The Yellow Dwarf," has evidently been a labour of love, so carefully has it been imagined, and so happily developed. The theme, too, has a serious colouring—for the *Yellow Dwarf*, alive to his deformity, passionately enamoured, impatient of a rival, resentful, sanguine of success, and yet defeated, is more of a tragic than a comic personage. Burlesque as the language may be that he is made to utter, play as he may on words, wanton as he must with a jest, deal as he should with parody; nevertheless, the situation receives necessarily its interpretation from the state of feeling that it implies. Mr. Robson was, of course, entrusted with this rôle; and acted it in the spirit in which it was written—not overstraining the extravagance, and letting the basis of passion on which it grew manifest itself in its natural tragic force. Mr. Planché had furnished the actor with some fine opportunities for this kind of display. A parody of the scene in which the Duke of Gloucester woos Lady Anne, some passages from "Othello," and one or two from "Shylock," told exceedingly well, and proved, what has often been asserted, that, notwithstanding his minute size, Mr. Robson's power in a legitimate tragic part would be great indeed. The object of his affections, the *Princess Alfair*, was gracefully performed by Miss Ormonde; and his rival, the *King of the Gold Mines*, found an admirable representative in Miss St. George. The *Queen Indulgentia*, by Mrs. Fitzallan, had some soliloquies in the heroic vein, which were delivered with due breadth of style and sweep of action. The fairy *Harriadon*, by Miss Marston, exhibited this charming actress in two phases of character—the old and the young. In both, she was carefully accurate, and in the latter delightfully natural. When we add, that the costumes and scenery were picturesque, glittering, and appropriate; and that "the making-up" of the demon-hero was fuel-like to a thought—an identity of the real and the ideal—an embodiment of the imaginative most artistically actualised—we shall have said enough to convince those whose apprehensions are quick to conceive the saliences of the supernatural, that Mr. Planché's piece—which is not merely a burlesque, but a poem—receives from its histrionic and scenic interpretations a poetic illustration, as satisfactory to the taste as it is honourable to the judgment of the performers and the management.

ASTLEY'S.—After "The Battle of Alma," the holiday attraction was the pantomime, "Gulliver's Travels through Horse Island; or, Harlequin and Britannia," which was produced in a highly creditable style. The "Crystallised Grot of Queen Britannia" is the scene of the Fairy Court, whose resolution is to baffle *Old Boreas*, and protect young *Gulliver*; which, after presenting the voyager escaping from the wreck of his vessel, changes to the Island of Lilliput—the inhabitants being introduced as small Turks, wondering at the "Man-mountain," and ultimately accepting his much-needed assistance against the enroaching ambition of the Emperor *Blejesco*. The subduing of the *Yahoos*, and the banquet of the *Houyhnhnms* (the behaviour of the horses, by the way, was admirable), and *Gulliver's* triumphs over the *Brobdingnags*, follow in due order. The scenery and tricks were picturesque and humorous. The scenes in the circle were also most effectively performed; and the whole afforded a large fund of amusement to a house crowded to the ceiling.

SURREY.—The pantomime at this theatre is always an event of interest, for which the management provides with distinguished liberality. As a spectacle, it is generally ambitious; and, on the

present occasion, successfully so. The name of this extra piece of magnificence is "Harlequin and Little One-Eye, Little Two-Eyes, and Little Three-Eyes; or, Beasts and Beauties"—the subject taken from the Brother Grimm's "Household Stories." King Ursaworsagrowlulouda is an impersonation of the Russian Czar, and "Emperor of all the Beasts," who seeks Little Two-Eyes for a wife. The lady in question is a Princess, the daughter of King Unioneyerumjustibustiboo. These long words may serve to exemplify the general character of the jests—it is broad and palpable; suitable, in fact, to a Surrey audience. A miller's son is the successful lover, and outwatches the two Emperors. The scenery, painted by Mr. Dalby, is first-rate; and the Columbine, Miss Gunniss, is a capital dancer. A ballet divertissement was introduced, in which some young coryphées of the same name were distinguished by their grace and taste. Mr. Shepherd, when summoned by the audience to receive the united testimony of their approbation, appeared well pleased with the acknowledgment.

THE STRAND.—The pantomime at this small house is performed by children, and devoted to the adventures of "Taffy, the Welshman," who, for his theft of the beef, is punished by the marrow-bone, which, having magical properties, enforces the transformations. The Clown is performed by a young lady, Miss Rose Edouin, who, for her age, may be described as surpassingly clever. Her brothers and sisters appear also to have supported on their tiny shoulders the characters of Harlequin, Pantaloon, and Columbine. It is evidently a talented little family. The piece was deservedly successful.

THE CITY OF LONDON.—This theatre is one of the head-quarters of pantomime—Mr. Nelson Lee, the author of so many spectacles under that name, generally contriving a "hit" for his own theatre. "Birds, Beasts, and Fishes; or, Harlequin Natural History," is the title of the drama, which, as we have already stated, is scientific in its theme. The caterers for the more popular audiences have properly regard to instruction as well as amusement, and apparently succeed in proportion as they blend the two. The Signs of the Zodiac and a Council of Birds, Beasts, and Fishes commence the action. Dame Nature questions them on their grievances, and informs them of "a surly Bear," who is "wandering under water, to claim the hand of Old Cock Salmon's daughter." Truth proposes to obtain help from the Fairy Goldfinch—whereupon the birds fly to air, the beasts go to earth, and the fishes depart into the sea. Goldfinch, of Feather Island, sends a despatch to King Lion—whom we next find in his palace, then present at a review, and lastly in full march to attack the intruding Bear. The transformations take place in Old Cock Salmon's grove. The comic scenes are broad and bustling, and, supported by two celebrated Clowns, Paul Herring and Richard Stilt, commanded complete success.

MUSIC.

THE EUROPEAN MUSICAL LIBRARY, for the Pianoforte. BOOSEY'S OPERA JOURNAL, for the Pianoforte. Messrs. Boosey and Co.

We do not intend at present to enter into much discussion respecting the reason or justice of the present law of musical copyright, as applicable to the works of foreign composers published in this country. After much uncertainty and many fluctuations, the question has at length been settled by a recent memorable judgment, whereby it has been decided that a sale by a foreign author to an English publisher of the copyright of a musical work is void unless the contract is made by the vendor, personally present in England. Whatever support such a doctrine may find in the technical subtleties of lawyers, it is unjust, irrational, and at variance with the plainest principles of commerce. It has been recognised throughout the civilised world that the produce of a man's brain—the work of his genius, talents, and learning—is as much his property as the work of his hands; and why he should be prevented from disposing of the one kind of property as freely as the other, is a question to which no answer can be found save by those whose faculties have been sharpened by the study of a science which (in mockery, one would suppose) has been called "the perfection of human reason." But so it is. The "glorious uncertainty of the law," on one point at least, exists no longer. The question of copyright is settled, till more enlarged and enlightened views shall reopen it at some future period.

Meanwhile the recent settlement of the law is already working injuriously to the art of music in this country. Its gross violation of the vested rights of individuals was evident from the first. Many eminent English publishing houses, who have purchased, at high prices, copyrights of foreign works of celebrity, have found that all their capital so expended has been thrown away. They are reduced to a footing of equality with anybody who may choose to print one of these works, without having been at any further expense than sending to Paris, or Leipzig, or Milan, for a copy of it. It is the fashion, however, now-a-days, to treat vested rights with little ceremony. They must give way, it is said, to the general good. In the present instance it is already apparent that the reverse is the case. The alteration in the English publishing trade is already operating fatally to the interests of the English musician. A publisher will no longer pay even a decent price for the copyright of an English work of genius, when he can load his counter with reprints of foreign publications which have cost him nothing. For proof of this, it is sufficient to look at the wares exposed for sale in every music-shop in London. At present the public seem to derive an advantage from this state of things. Music-sellers are vying with each other in the cheapness of their publications; but these publications are all foreign reprints; and, in running this race of cheapness, our publishers will no longer give their own countrymen the remuneration due to their reputation and talents.

The publishers who have, perhaps, suffered the most from the recent judicial interpretation of the law are those who, in the courts, contended the most strenuously against it—the eminent house of Boosey and Co. They possessed many expensive copyrights which that judgment has deprived of their value. It is to this circumstance, doubtless, that we owe the publications of which the titles are placed at the head of this notice; but they are not only a judicious publishing speculation, but highly interesting to the musical public.

Both publications are for the use of pianoforte-players, and will make a most valuable addition to a lady's musical library. "The European Musical Library" is a large collection of pieces for the pianoforte, by eminent composers of the present day, both foreign and English: Herz, Nordmann, Voss, Dobler, Rosellen, Goria, Cramer, Wallace, Osborne, &c. It is published in numbers, each containing one piece; and seventy-two numbers have appeared. The pieces are of the most modern school, but very varied in style and in degrees of difficulty. Some are simple and popular, and others calculated to display the most brilliant execution; but they are all of moderate length, and well fitted, from their grace and elegance, for drawing-room performance.

The Opera Journal, also published in numbers, is a collection of favourite pieces from the operas of Bellini, Donizetti, Verdi, and others; arranged for the pianoforte by Nordmann, Diabelli, Calloott, and other eminent masters. These arrangements are made in two ways, either as solos, or for two performers. In either of these forms the beautiful and expressive vocal melodies of the Italian composers are heard to great advantage. They are not difficult to execute; their clear and simple style places them within the reach of every pianist possessed of taste and feeling. They call up agreeable reminiscences of the Opera-house, and heighten the elegant enjoyment of a social evening.

The publishers announce that, in consequence of the recent decision as to copyright, the price of these works is only one-half of what it would otherwise have been. This reduction, however, has had no effect on the manner in which they have been brought out; for, in respect to largeness of form, quality of paper, and beauty and accuracy of printing, they are equal to any publications which have issued from the musical press.

MISS RANSFORD is in the custom, at this season, of giving a series of musical soirées at her own residence, in Welbeck-street. They are elegant entertainments, combining the character of a public performance with that of a social party. On Wednesday evening her rooms were filled with fashionable company, who enjoyed a fine selection of English music, admirably executed by English performers. The concert was chiefly vocal; comprising several of our finest glees, madrigals, airs, and duets. The singers were Miss Ransford, Miss Eliza Birch, Miss Rowland, Mr. Ransford, Mr. Foster, Mr. Smith, Mr. King, and Mr. G. Tedder. Miss Ransford's principal performance was Dr. Arne's celebrated brava, "The Soldier Tired of War's Alarms," from "Artaxerxes," which she sang with great vocal power and the most brilliant execution. It was loudly encored. Horeley's fine glee, "By Celia's Arbour," and Festa's famous old madrigal, "Down in a Flowery Vale," were also warmly encored. Such concerts as this are especially entitled to favour; as the works of the great English composers are too much neglected by the fashionable votaries of music.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. T., Edgewood-road.—The most juvenile of juveniles in Chess must see that Black's first move in Problem 564 is Kt (not King) to Kt 4th. Your solution is altogether a mistake. T. J. Hanworth; F. T. Derby; J. B. Beta.—I. We can find no other way to Mate according to the conditions in Mr. Campbell's fine Problem, but that we have given. 2. At the last move, White forces Mate obviously, by B to K 4th, or B to Q 8th.

BLACK AND WHITE.—There is nothing whatever in White's situation to compensate for the loss of a Rook. AN OLD SUBSCRIBER, Liverpool.—You must retract the moves made, also; Black gave check. W. C. G.—It shall be examined; but, as we have before mentioned, "first attacks" at compelling Chess Problems are quite unavailing to our column. To make fine Problems (and we want none but the best) requires great study, much patience, and considerable inventive power.

H. I. P.—Ineligible. You have evidently not the most distant notion of what is demanded in a Chess Problem. CHIEF OF BUREAU.—No. 1 shall have a niche among our Chess Enigmas. See notice to "Beta," in our last.

H. T. L.—Burton, is thanked for his beautiful N 10 stratagem. BOOKWORM.—See Dr. Forbes' learned and very interesting account of the first introduction of Chess from India into Persia, which appeared in our last Number.

D.—St. James's Literary and Scientific Society. Where is the list of directors and members, promised?

F. R. C.—Your Solution of No. 561 will not do. GERMANY.—You will probably gain some intelligence of the foreign player you name by applying at King's Chess-rooms, No. 454, New Oxford-street.

G. T., Harrow.—The match between Oxford and Cambridge is not yet concluded. When over, we shall most likely print the games. F. B. C., New Jersey.—Your long-looked-for packet has reached us safely by the last mail.

F. R., of Norwich.—In your proposed solution of 561, you say, "If 1. P. Queen, White R takes R P, and mates next move." How can he do so, if Black then advance P to Q 6th, discover check?

DOUBLE C., Allahabad, India.—The packet of Problems has arrived safely, and shall be reported on in a week or two. R. F. D., Lisbon.—A correction shall be communicated to the author.

JUVENIS.—The words "mate," "mate," "mated," in the old English writers from whom you quote, have no allusion to the game of Chess. "To mate" was to amaze, confound, &c. &c.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 565, by Dervon, Adriatic, W. C. C.; E. H., Norwich; T. J., of Harworth; Mathematics; J. P., Dalston; Beta; P. T., Derby; F. R., Norwich; Persons, Omega, Charlton; W. P., Seb., A. L. M., O. Z., Y. P. L., Omicron, D. D., Pau; F. A. Pearson, Irkeman; W. C. E., Gravesend; W. Denny, are correct.

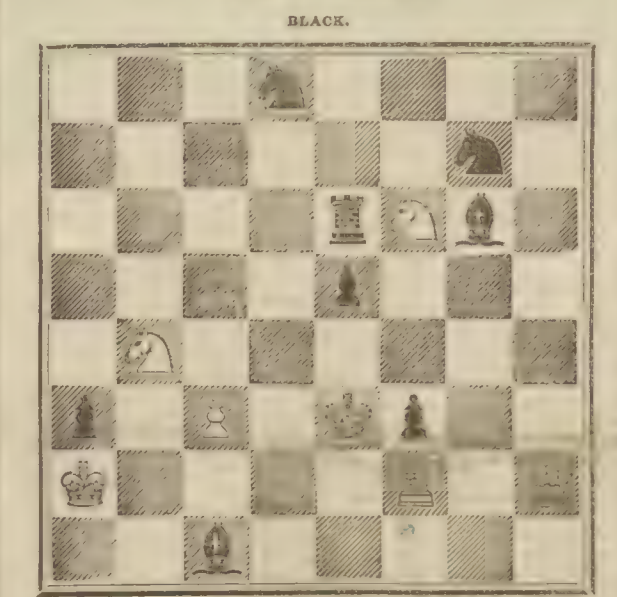
SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 566, by Mercury; F. T., Derby; Persons, D. D., Pau, Omega, S. P., Q. R., Alma; P. R. S., Ernest, Peter, W. G., J. T. B., Rugby-boy, Chrysolite, Digby, W. Miles, Ocelotarian, Dervon; J. P., Dalston; Omicron, are correct. All others are wrong.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 565.
WHITE. 1. Kt takes Q P (dis. ch) BLACK. K to B 3rd, or (a) 2. Q to K 5th (ch) 3. Kt to B 7th
Discovering Checkmate.

(a) 1. Q to K 3rd (ch) K to K 4th 2. Q to K 5th (ch) 3. Q Mate.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 566.
WHITE. 1. R to K 2nd (ch) 2. B to Q sq BLACK. R interposes P becomes a Q or Kt 3. R to Q 2nd 4. R to K 4th (ch) 5. Any thing And Mates next move.

PROBLEM No. 567.
By Mr. W. GRIMSHAW.

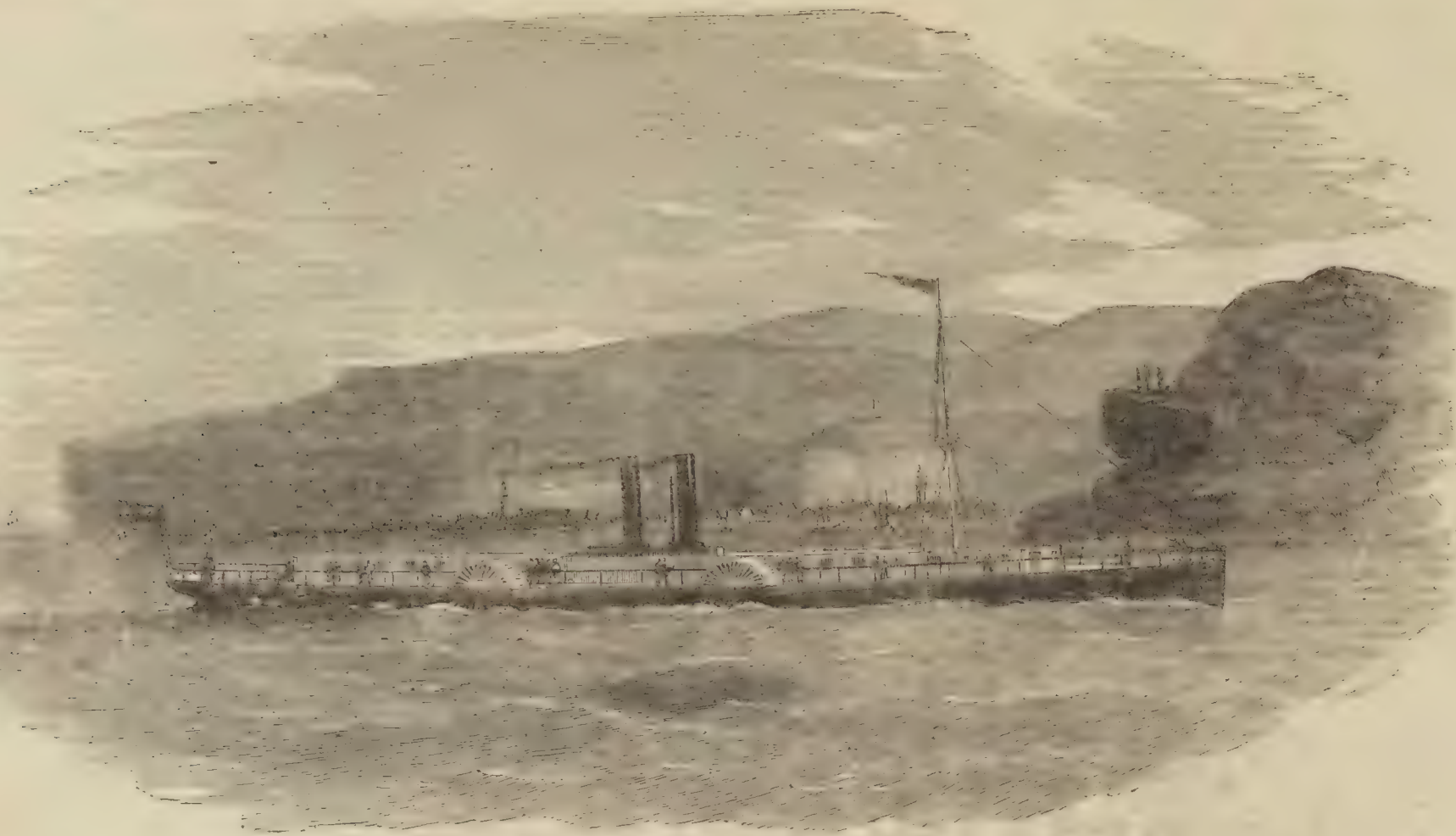


WHITE.
White to play, and mate in four moves.

CURIOUS LITTLE SKIRMISH BETWEEN MR. STAUNTON AND MR. H. (A PROMISING AMATEUR.)

Mr. S. giving his Queen's Rook, which must be removed from the board. (Giuoco Piano.)

WHITE (Mr. S.) BLACK (Mr. H.)
1. P to K 4th 2. P to K 4th 3. K to Kt 3rd 4. K to Kt 3rd 5. K to B 4th 6. K to B 4th 7. P to Q 3rd 8. P to Q 3rd 9. P to Q 4th 10. P to Q 4th 11. P takes P 12. P takes P 13. K to his B sq 14. Q to her R 4th 15. Q to her B 16. P takes B 17. Q to K 5th 18. Q to K 5th 19. Q to K 5th 20. Q to K 5th 21. Q to K 5th 22. Q to K 5th 23. Q to K 5th 24. Q to K 5th 25. Q to K 5th 26. Q to K 5th 27. Q to K 5th 28. Q to K 5th 29. Q to K 5th 30. Q to K 5th 31. Q to K 5th 32. Q to K 5th 33. Q to K 5th 34. Q to K 5th 35. Q to K 5th 36. Q to K 5th 37. Q to K 5th 38. Q to K 5th 39. Q to K 5th 40. Q to K 5th 41. Q to K 5th 42. Q to K 5th 43. Q to K 5th 44. Q to K 5th 45. Q to K 5th 46. Q to K 5th 47. Q to K 5th 48. Q to K 5th 49. Q to K 5th 50. Q to K 5th 51. Q to K 5th 52. Q to K 5th 53. Q to K 5th 54. Q to K 5th 55. Q to K 5th 56. Q to K 5th 57. Q to K 5th 58. Q to K 5th 59. Q to K 5th 60. Q to K 5th 61. Q to K 5th 62. Q to K 5th 63. Q to K 5th 64. Q to K 5th 65. Q to K 5th 66. Q to K 5th 67. Q to K 5th 68. Q to K 5th 69. Q to K 5th 70. Q to K 5th 71. Q to K 5th 72. Q to K 5th 73. Q to K 5th 74. Q to K 5th 75. Q to K 5th 76. Q to K 5th 77. Q to K 5th 78. Q to K 5th 79. Q to K 5th 80. Q to K 5th 81. Q to K 5th 82. Q to K 5th 83. Q to K 5th 84. Q to K 5th 85. Q to K 5th 86. Q to K 5th 87. Q to K 5th 88. Q to K 5th 89. Q to K 5th 90. Q to K 5th 91. Q to K 5th 92. Q to K 5th 93. Q to K 5th 94. Q to K 5th 95. Q to K 5th 96. Q to K 5th 97. Q to K 5th 98. Q to K 5th 99. Q to K 5th 100. Q to K 5th 101. Q to K 5th 102. Q to K 5th 103. Q to K 5th 104. Q to K 5th 105. Q to K 5th 106. Q to K 5th 107. Q to K 5th 108. Q to K 5th 109. Q to K 5th 110. Q to K 5th 111. Q to K 5th 112. Q to K 5th 113. Q to K 5th 114. Q to K 5th 115. Q to K 5th 116. Q to K 5th 117. Q to K 5th 118. Q to K 5th 119. Q to K 5th 120. Q to K 5th 121. Q to K 5th 122. Q to K 5th 123. Q to K 5th 124. Q to K 5th 125. Q to K 5th 126. Q to K 5th 127. Q to K 5th 128. Q to K 5th 129. Q to K 5th 130. Q to K 5th 131. 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THE FOUR-PADDLE-WHEEL DANUBE STEAMER, "TACHITALIA."—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

lebone. Of course, if he had not been the eldest representative of an ancient family, intimately associated with the fortunes of the Whigs, he would not have found it so easy to be elected to Parliament, nor would he so soon have attracted the notice of the Ministers of the day; but, apart from these advantages, which are a part of the lottery of life, and of which he could not be deprived, he owes all his public position, and the good opinion entertained of him alike by superiors, subordinates, and contemporaries, entirely to his own capacity and excellent character; and for a certain class of public offices a more eligible man could not be found, if all the representatives of the people were put upon a trial of their claims.

His father, the second Earl Fortescue, had for some two years filled the office of Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, when Lord Ebrington was, in July, 1841, elected member for Plymouth. In 1839, the Earl, then bearing the courtesy title of Viscount Ebrington, was called up to the House of Peers in the barony of Fortescue; and in 1841 he succeeded to the Earldom; when the subject of this Sketch assumed in his turn the courtesy title of Viscount Ebrington. He is the eldest son of the Earl, by the eldest daughter of the first Earl of Harrowby. He was born in 1818, in Upper Brook-street; and was educated at Harrow, where, and subsequently at the University, he distinguished himself. Elected, as we have said, a member of the House of Commons in July, 1841, he

exhibited his devotion to the Whigs when they were from time to time in temporary straits. Shortly afterwards Lord Ebrington accepted a post of importance in connection with the newly-made Public Health Commission; but he soon afterwards resigned it, not finding his position in accordance with his ideas of responsibility. When the Tory Administration of Lord Derby appealed to the country, in July 1852, Lord Ebrington unsuccessfully contested the borough of Barnstaple—the two members being, however, subsequently unseated for bribery; and from that date until recently he ceased to take any prominent part in political life. The death of Lord Dudley Stuart having occasioned a vacancy in the representation of Marylebone, Lord Ebrington came forward as a candidate, with a Liberal programme, and the prestige of his personal respectability and official services. As compared with his opponent (Mr. Jacob Bell), he was regarded with favour by the Conservatives, and the result of the election was scarcely doubtful to those who know the state of the borough when there is no very strong dissension between Whigs and Tories. Lord Ebrington was returned by a majority of 2773; polling 6940 votes against Mr. Bell's 4167.

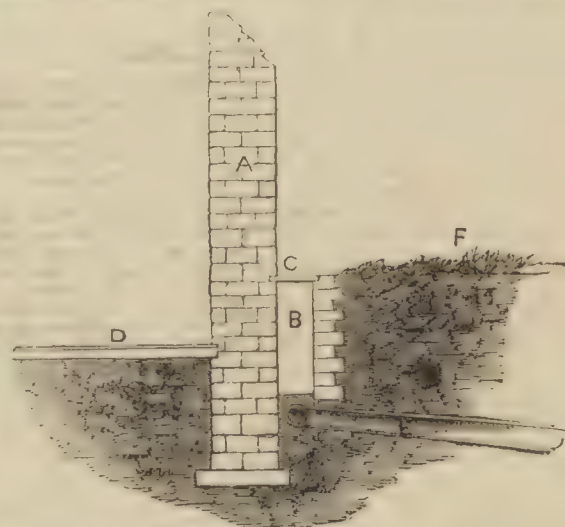
We have already recorded Lord Ebrington's value as an administrative officer. As a political man, while holding to his principles, and working generally with the Whig party, he is distinguished by a certain independence of character which suits well with the temper of the times, and renders him eligible for the public service as a man whose motives inspire confidence. As a speaker, he has of late very much improved. He has also appeared in the arena of literature, with, among other things, a pamphlet on Representative Reform (published by Ridgway), and a little work (published by Parker and Son) edited and translated from the French of the Père Girard, entitled "The Mother Tongue; or, Methodical Instruction on the Mother Tongue in Schools and Families." Lord Ebrington married, in 1847, the eldest daughter of the Right Hon. Colonel Dawson Damer (her Ladyship was then twenty-one years of age), by whom he has four daughters. His Lordship is a Deputy-Lieutenant of the county of Devon, and a Lieut.-Colonel (1851) in the North Devon Yeomanry Cavalry, in which he had been appointed Major in 1842.

PONTELAND CHURCH.

FEW persons can fail to have remarked the dank and cavernous appearance of the walls of churches in rural districts; indicating dampness and other unhealthy conditions of such edifices. To remedy this defect, the most simple and efficacious means have just been adopted, with success, in the picturesque church of Ponteland, in the county of Northumberland. It was built, probably, in the early part of the thirteenth century, although its tower betokens an earlier date, in its Norman doorway entering from the west. The body of the Church is in a mixed style of architecture—Gothic, Transitional, Florid, Venetian, and bad Modern. Still, the nave, aisles, and chancel, are very striking. The interior has hitherto been, like too many of our country churches, damp, cold, unwarmed, with walls discoloured by the grass outside, and the wood-work decayed, and sending off offensive odours.

Externally, the soil had accumulated through ages, to the height of three feet, and bodies were buried close against the ashlar work; consequently retaining all the water that fell on it. Such had long been the condition of Ponteland Church, when the parishioners and the neighbouring gentry, aided by the patrons of the living, and the Church-building Societies, set themselves in earnest to the restoration of the edifice. The earth was removed from the walls outside, and a most effectual drainage carried out. The rotten pews were entirely removed, and replaced by excellent benches of Memel wood, stained dark-brown colour, of uniform size and shape, and of an ecclesiastical character. Stoves and flues have been introduced, and 60 additional sittings have been gained; the walls have been cleansed, and thus this once-abused Church has been made fit for "man as well as Master's use."

The simple means by which this vital improvement has been effected will be explained by the accompanying sectional View. We have only to add that it would give us pleasure to have to record many similar instances of such simple means of adding to the healthiness of Church



A The Wall of the Church.
B The Area round the Wall to keep it dry.
C Flagstone covering the Area.
D The Floor of the Church.
E The Drain-pipe.
F The Level of Ground in the Churchyard.

SECTION OF WALL, ETC., OF PONTELAND CHURCH, NORTHUMBERLAND.

congregations; more especially where the situation of the sacred edifice has rendered it liable to be affected by external damp, arising from such neglect as, until lately, characterised the Church of Ponteland.



VISCOUNT EBRINGTON, M.P. FOR MARYLEBONE.—FROM A DAGUERRETYPE BY CLAUDET.

gave the Whig party a general support, speaking rarely, but voting steadily, during their Opposition campaign under the second Administration of Sir Robert Peel. When the downfall of that statesman paved the way for a return of the Whigs, Lord John Russell acknowledged the parliamentary service and the family influence of Lord Ebrington by making him Lord of the Treasury. In this office he remained from July, 1846, to December, 1847, when his abilities and a certain aptitude as a speaker pointed him out as a fit person to take the post of Secretary of the Poor-law Board. Here, by his business habits, his firm but considerate application of rules difficult of execution, the urbanity of his manners, and his general uprightness, he gave very great satisfaction; indeed, with the sole exception of the late Mr. Charles Buller, no member of the Administration of the Poor-law was more successful—commanding a respect, blended with personal liking. His demeanour in the House of Commons, too, whenever the business of his department was the subject of discussion, tended to facilitate the movement of the Board, by softening asperities which former officials had provoked. Lord Ebrington, in February, 1851, resigned the post of Secretary to the Poor-law Board, for reasons into which it is not necessary here to enter. This was during the agitations which imperilled the existence of the Russell Administration, and foreshadowed its downfall, about a year after. He continued, however, to support the general principles of his party—walking, more or less, in the footsteps of his father, who, on more than one occasion, had



PONTELAND CHURCH, NORTHUMBERLAND.



NAVIES AT THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY TERMINUS, EUSTON-SQUARE.

NAVIES FOR THE CRIMEA.

In the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS for December 9 we introduced to our readers the novel engineering plan of Messrs. Peto, Betts, and Brassey, for the construction of a railway from Balaklava to the heights above Sebastopol, for the conveyance of troops, stores, ammunition, &c. For this great object the contractors have already organised a force of Navvies, together with the requisities for carrying out the views of the Government.

Vessels have started, or are about to start from Liverpool, Hull, Sunderland, and London, having on board several hundred navvies, with material for the works. The embarkation of the first corps took place at Birkenhead Docks, on the 21st inst. On the Wednesday week previous, this corps, fifty-four in number, headed by their gangers, and superintended by Mr. Shaw, under whose management the men are placed, left the North-Western Railway Terminus at Euston-square, en route for Liverpool. Prior to their departure "allotment papers" were

drawn up and signed in one of the waiting-rooms, by those men who were desirous of allotting some portion of their wages to their families or friends, to be paid during their absence, at stated terms. Many of the men were accompanied by their wives. The train by which they were to have proceeded to Liverpool was that at nine o'clock; but the allotment papers not being all signed, the men stoutly refused to leave London till every paper had been made out; consequently, they did not leave until ten o'clock. The waiting-room presented a most earnest and animated scene. In justice to the men, we should state that the amount allotted amounted on the average to twenty shillings each man. This may be accounted for by their high character, and the liberal wages they are to receive. Eight shillings a day are the terms; besides which they are to have all their clothes and rations gratuitously. The train started amid loud cheers, in which the Navvies themselves most heartily joined.

The *Wildfire*, Capt. Downward, was to have sailed from Liverpool on the Friday; but, owing to the heavy gale, nearly a week elapsed be-

fore the embarkation took place. The vessel was sold to Messrs. Peto, Betts, and Brassey, by Tonge, Curry, and Co., of Liverpool, for £4500. She is clipper-built, 457 tons, and was lately owned by the trustees of Edward Oliver's estate. The between-decks have been fitted up as a cabin and for berths for the men. Every arrangement has been made for their accommodation, and its completeness is due to the energetic superintendence of Mr. Scott, of the North of Europe Steam Navigation Company. On Tuesday evening prior to the embarkation, a dinner was given by the firm of Messrs. Peto, Betts, and Brassey, when several gentlemen assembled at Gough's Hotel, Woodside Ferry, to take leave of Mr. Shaw, under whose superintendence the men proceed to the Crimea.

The weather having moderated sufficiently, the *Wildfire* prepared to leave the docks at Birkenhead, and for that purpose was tugged to the dock gates. At eleven o'clock on Thursday morning, the 21st inst., the men, headed by Mr. Shaw, Mr. G. Arkle, and other gentlemen, left the Sun Inn, and proceeded down Bridge-street to the Docks. The windows



NAVIES EMBARKING AT THE BIRKENHEAD DOCKS.

It has been stated that the Crimean Navvies are to be armed. This is a mistake—they are too valuable and expensive to be put in the way of shot, if it can be avoided. A few arms have been sent for special cases; and a few of the candidates inquired if they might have the chance of a shot at the Russians.

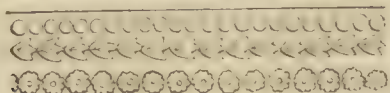
va, builder.—J. HALL, Pu. fleet Wharf, Camdon-town, wharfinger.—H. SAVILL, Col-
ester, Essex, grocer.—S. TYLER, Denham, Buckinghamshire, innkeeper.—T. STANDEN,
Ludhurst, Kent, general dealer.—F. G. EKINS, London-street, Greenwich, watchmaker.—

not forget the sources of these improvements: the best are copies from Greek and Etruscan pottery. It should, therefore, become our business
(Continued on page 700.)

From the pottery of the ancients we are now supplying the blanks of history, as well as collecting material for the improvement of public taste and the advancement of art. An intimate acquaintance, on the part of producers, with Greek and Etruscan forms, will enable the British manufacturer to compete with the more refined productions of the Continent: Our own public, too, when the eye is educated to the beautiful, will be no longer content with the ugly domestic crockery now in use. It costs no more to make a pretty jug than an absurdly grotesque vessel. The shop-windows of most large towns prove that we have already made much progress in the right direction; and we must not forget the sources of these improvements: the best are copies from Greek and Etruscan pottery. It should, therefore, become our business

(Continued on page 700.)

SHAKSPERE.—The admirers of the immortal Bard will be pleased to learn that W. H. RICH, M.N.S., and Co., have obtained permission from Mrs. Fletcher of Gloucester, to publish, in fac-simile, the celebrated and curious JUG, proved to have been used by the Poet. An interesting Pamphlet given with each. The Jug may be obtained of most respectable dealers, or at the Manufactory (late Chubb's Patent), Royal Porcelain Works, Worcester. Price 7s. 6d. each; or, covered, 1s. 6d., by enclosing a Post-office Order.



(Continued from page 698)

as well as our pleasure, to watch the progress of antiquarian discovery, and avail ourselves of those treasures which are sure to be found at the excavations of classical sites.

The art-excellence of ancient pottery must be looked for during the Greek and Etruscan periods. There still hangs a strange mystery about Etruria, and whether that singular people were the producers, or only the importers of the interesting vases found in their sepulchral mansions. Be this as it may, the art is Greek, and much of it singularly fine, as the illustrations of the present Vase will, I think, sufficiently demonstrate.

Nearly all the ancient pottery which time has spared and accident has brought to light are funeral tributes, which have been found in tombs. This is by no means remarkable, as the respect shown towards the resting places of the dead naturally protected their contents; that is to say, so long as the inhabitants of a site professed the same religion as those who had already departed for the "happy isles;" and even the early Roman Christians, who occasionally plundered Pagan tombs, generally left the pottery and glass; so that we have only lost the gold ornaments, coins, and bronzes, even of those tombs which have been rifled. The domestic pottery of the ancients, that is to say, drinking-vessels, &c., shared the fate of terra-cotta at all periods of the world; it is, therefore, remarkably scarce.

Signor Riccio, well known for his numismatic researches, had discovered at Capua, from time to time, fragments of vases remarkably light, and of a bright red colour, with bas-reliefs thereon of very high art. Eventually, fortune enabled him to find all the pieces of a Cantharus, which when put together presents an example of Greek art perhaps unequalled in terra-cotta. Signor Riccio has allowed me to make a drawing from the bas-reliefs of this beautiful Vase (See Illustration), which he considers to have been a nuptial gift. The four figures of the Seasons surround the Cantharus, divided by Bacchic emblems and festal decorations. First, after the candelabrum, comes Winter (rich with the spoils of the chase), the season considered by the ancients as most suitable for marriage; then follows Spring, with a flower in her hand; succeeded by Summer and Autumn, each bearing the fruit of the season. The drawings show the wonderful beauty of the composition and form with which this Vase is enriched. The Cantharus is about fifteen inches high; the relief is not very great; the detail remarkably careful, whilst the outline is sharp and distinct. The colour of the pottery is bright red, singularly light, and varnished. I have seen no example of this description of pottery in any public or private collection which can be at all compared with it for art-excellence.

The discovery of this Vase was a pure accident; it was not found in a tomb. Workmen were employed in boring for a well, when, at a consi-

* Such is the opinion of Bottiger, Minervini, Dennis, and all who have written on ancient pottery.



VASE RECENTLY FOUND AT CAPUA.

derable distance below the surface of the earth, they came upon a portion of an old building, and in a recess of the same the fragments of this Vase were found. What the building might have been it is impossible to say, since no further excavations were made, and the earth has again sealed the dwelling of those who 2000 years ago produced such art as we now contemplate with wonder and delight.

PARIS FASHIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

THE fashions for the coming year partake but little of the customary festivity of the season, owing to the gravity of the paramount subject of the day. Thus, instead of brilliant robes for balls, hardly a thought is bestowed this year on dresses either for soirées, theatres, or dinners. Instead of Court robes and mantelets, little else is seen but rich day dresses. The materials are rich and stout, but they are not of light and graceful shades. An attempt was, it is true, made a short time since to bring in "Alma sleeves," and "Inkerman bonbons;" but the public good taste quickly rendered justice to these injudicious novelties.



PARIS FASHIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Nevertheless, the *demi-toilette* will not be less charming for being deprived of Court and ball-dresses. There is still the same indecision as to whether flounces will be worn or thrown aside; the shop-windows would make one believe that they are in as great favour as ever, though at the Théâtre des Italiens and some select receptions, they are comparatively rare. The excessive fullness of the petticoats, which sustain the robes, has rendered flounces almost superfluous; since the fullness of the robe is obtained from beneath the skirt, and not outside it by flounces, as formerly. Neither are they worn in the beautiful robes of *gros de Tours*, with pattern velvet and garlanded flowers woven in the material, and running around the dress. Nothing is richer or more elegant than his dress.

Moiré antique is without flounces, and is distinguished by the fullness and beauty of its folds; this is simpler and perhaps in better taste. At first much of this material was made with large patterns of lively and varied colours; now they are almost always plain or in white stripes. The Empress has just introduced an elegant novelty, called *Tessile Impériale*. It is composed of golden trellis-work beneath which is a black velvet cap, ornamented with little black feathers; and in the squares of the trellis-work are sprinkled diamonds or other precious stones. When this head-dress descends from the Court circles, for the precious stones are substituted jet.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

Lace Cap en point d'Alençon, with groups of flowers on each side; sometimes, instead of these groups, the flowers are placed in a crown, beginning at the middle of the head, going on increasing on the cheeks, and terminating by water-flowers with long pendent sprigs. The latter flowers are more especially worn with open ball-dresses.

Robe de satin turc, with basques, ornamented with a mossy fringe, finishing in front of the corsage, and forming a *bretelle*. Pichu and sleeves of lace, similar to the bonnet; the inside of the sleeve is trimmed with a double row of fringe to match.

Girl's Dress.—Taffetas bonnet, trimmed simply with ribbons of the same; *tour de cou* of ermine; mantelet of black or violet velvet, trimmed with simple silk braid. Robe without flounces, of *poult de soie*; pearl grey percale trousers, bordered with English embroidery, interspersed with *broderie en plumets*.

Bonnet of rose-coloured velours épinglé; robe of plain Irish poplin; mantelet à basques of the same: the mantelet is ornamented with black velvet, and the robe with black fringe, which encircles the corsage, and descends in four rows in front.

Boy's Dress.—Sailor's cap, bound with oil-cloth; brown cloth cloak; jacket of black velvet, with rather wide sleeves; black trousers, and patent leather boots.

Cap of blue velours épinglé, with a white feather, and a knot of velvet ribbons of a similar shade.

Robe, a large pelerine of *drap zéphir*, grey, with a silk braid of the same colour, though somewhat darker; large gaiters of grey cloth, to match the dress.





PEMBROKE-HOUSE, WHITEHALL-GARDENS, THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER-AT-WAR.

PEMBROKE HOUSE, WHITEHALL-GARDENS.

THE concentration of Government Offices which occupy a portion of the site of the extensive Palace of Whitehall, has recently received the addition of Pembroke House, as the official residence of the new War Minister, His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

Pembroke House is one of the mansions which were erected upon the gardens, grounds, and site of the old palace, after the great fire of 1698. It is a stately edifice, on the south side of what are now called "Whitehall-gardens," and is almost immediately opposite Gibbons's beautiful statue of James II. The south front commands a cheerful view of the Thames; the approach from Whitehall gardens is through a large and lofty gate, across a small court. This was formerly the residence of the late Earl of Harrington, who died in 1851. Adjoining the above front is an ivied wall, part of a bastion, and a fragment of the palace—a blocked-up arch—facing Whitehall-yard. Here also are the offices of three minor departments of the War-Office; so that this new location

of its Minister is likely to prove a convenient choice. As the official duties of the new War Minister are not generally known, it may be as well to append their outline, which we are enabled to do by the recent issue of a revised edition of Mr. Murray's *Official Handbook of Church and State*, edited by Mr. Redgrave:—

On the declaration of war in 1854, the opinions which had for some time been entertained, that the authorities entrusted with the political control of affairs connected with the military administration should be centred in the hands of one responsible Minister, led to the separation of the duties of War Minister from those of the Colonies, and the appointment of a Secretary of State for War. The patent of the Duke of Newcastle, who then, as Colonial Minister, had the charge of the war, was revoked, and he was re-appointed in general terms one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, and placed at the head of this new department; and a new appointment was at the same time made to fill the vacancy thus created at the Colonial-office.

The inconvenience was foreseen which would arise from making extensive changes by the consolidation of duties immediately relating to the

conduct of the war, at a time when the greatest promptitude was required; and the immediate duties with which the newly-created Minister was invested were, in the first instance, those only concerning the charge and control of the war, which had belonged to the Colonial Secretary. He has, therefore, succeeded to the direction of the war, and plans the operations of the British armies abroad, conveying to the officers in command the instructions of his Government, and receiving their despatches. He also cares for all matters connected with the wants of the British armies engaged in a campaign. He recommends to the Sovereign for the Order of the Bath. He has, further, a general authority in all matters relating to the Army, and is responsible for the amount of the military establishments it being his province, after consulting the Commander-in-Chief upon the total amount of the force which the Government propose to be maintained for the year, to submit it for the Queen's pleasure. He also conveys to the Commander-in-Chief the approval of those higher military appointments which require the sanction of the Government. He prepares for the Royal signature, and countersigns (a duty heretofore belonging to the Home Secretary) all military commissions, except those prepared by the Colonial Secretary for officers serving in India, Ceylon, or the Colonial



RECEPTION, BY MESSRS. CUTHBERT, PATERNOSTER-ROW, OF LINT, ETC., FOR THE WOUNDED AT SCUTARI.—(SEE NEXT PAGE).

corps, upon a notification from the Secretary-at-War of her Majesty's pleasure taken thereon by the Commander-in-Chief. In the same manner he receives and conveys to the Master-General of the Ordnance her Majesty's commands for the supply and issue of arms.

Arrangements are in progress to transfer to the Secretary of State for War the extensive Commissariat duties now under the charge of the Treasury; and it will remain for future determination what portions of those civil functions belonging to the Ordnance, the War-Office or other departments which are connected both with the military and political duties of the State, may be advantageously transferred to his care.

HOSPITAL AIDS FOR THE WOUNDED.

No sooner had the wants of the wounded in the Hospital at Scutari been made known through the powerful medium of the public journals, than a generous band presented themselves for the supply of the requirements of suffering humanity. Foremost in the rank were Messrs. Cuthbert, of Paternoster row, who at once offered to receive and ship any quantity of remedial provisions for the mutilations of war as might be forwarded to them. Their offer was speedily responded to by vast numbers of committees organised for the purpose; while the nobility and gentry of all grades instantly sent in their donations of lint, rags, woollen shirts, stockings, and warm clothing to a large amount. So freely did the parcels pour in, that it was with difficulty hogsheads and other packages could be provided to receive them. Upwards of sixty tons weight were soon received from private benevolence. The list of benefactors would be too long for us to print, but a few names out of the long list will show from what high sources the kindly feeling flows. Thus we find the names of—The Duke of Sutherland, the Duke of Devonshire, the Earl of Carlisle, the Marchioness of Cholmondeley, the Marquis of Exeter, the Viscountess Holmesdale, &c. The Local Committees formed a list of considerable length; showing how universally and instantaneously the sympathy spread through the length and breadth of the country. The vessels in which these necessities were shipped were the *Queen of the South* (about three tons on board) and the *Gottenburg* (about ten tons), leaving a large quantity to be shipped; but in a few days the huge piles shown in the Illustration were on their way to the Hospital at Scutari.

A party of benevolent ladies feeling it to be the duty of every one, at this important crisis, to evince their sympathy with the brave men who are now fighting the battles of their country, are making articles of substantial comfort for the soldier. They have commenced with high, strong, and warm-knitted woollen socks. They have also undertaken to accept the contributions of other ladies who, animated by the like sentiments, may be disposed to make and send socks of the same kind, which will be received at the board-room of the Charing cross Hospital, West Strand, and transmitted to the seat of war.

The following are suggestions for those who wish to contribute articles of their own make:—

- 1st. The Wool yarn should be six-thread fleece, and be first shrunk by immersion in boiling water and dried.
- 2nd. The Needles should be of the size No. 10.
- 3rd. The Stitches should be about Sixty.
- 4th. The Ribbing at the top about 14 inch deep.
- 5th. Cast on double.
- 6th. Length of Leg part from top to the bottom of the Heel, 10 inches.
- 7th. Length of Foot from the Toe to the extremity of Heel, 10 inches.
- One hank of Wool contains 1 lb. which, being divided into two balls, will suffice for one Sock; that is, one ball for the Leg, and one for the Heel and Foot.

GUN-COTTON FOR THE WAR.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

If the private enterprise and mechanical talent of this country were as slow to move, and as unwilling to learn, as some of the Government departments, we should be the last in the race of manufacture and commerce. Compare the relative progress of our civil and military engineering in the last forty years, and the question naturally arises, why the one profession is at the helm of progress in every European nation, whilst the other has recently been proved but a tardy copyist at best. We can have no more striking illustration of this than appeared in a corner of the *Times* a few days back. It was cursorily announced that 160 guns were being, or had been, cast at Vienna, to employ Gun-cotton, instead of gunpowder. Six-pounders can be converted with superior effect into twelve of the description which the Russians are now employing. It is no longer surprising that we hear from the Crimea that Russian guns of the same calibre have a greater range than our own.

Gun-cotton is from four to six times as powerful as gunpowder; it is quicker in its discharge—but it is quick or slow, according to the degree of compression; it makes little smoke; it does not foul the gun; it saves the delay of priming; it seldom misses fire in the worst weather; it may even be kept in water for seven years uninjured; it heats a gun less than powder; and it will be found safer in use, and eventually less dangerous to manufacture. An impression has gone abroad that Gun-cotton explodes spontaneously, or by an ordinary blow, like chloride of nitrogen, or detonating-powder. This is not correct. It is a chemical substance which will only explode by some means capable of producing a temperature of 350°—which we may, in practice, call nearly double the acquired temperature of boiling water.

I have never had an accident with it myself, although I have submitted it to several tests; and I believe that, whenever accidents have arisen from its use, they are in all cases attributable to its being used in such quantities, or in such a manner, that equivalent quantities of gunpowder would have produced the same result.

Common cotton (or any vegetable fibre) immersed in strong nitric and sulphuric acid for ten minutes, and washed in water for half an hour, forms this invaluable ammunition; and a besieged city, possessing a few tons of acid, need never want supplies. This is a manufacture which the Russians at Sebastopol can carry on as long as they have access to the harbour; and that they are doing so there is reason to believe, without a possibility of our being able to explode a single magazine.

The bombardment by the Allied fleets on the 17th October would have been much more effective if the discharge of each broadside had been smokeless, and capable, therefore, of being directed at embayments, instead of being chance shots at a granite wall. How many more gallant Englishmen would have lived to tell of the bloody dawn of Inkerman, if the powder of the minis had not been rendered useless by night-work in the trenches. Sufficient ammunition for immediate use could have been recovered from the wrecks of the 14th of November, and innumerable other advantages secured if our Ordnance authorities had been but a step in advance of the Viennese. The Austrian Government has presented the inventor, Schonbein, of Basle, with 20,000 florins—a significant proof of their intentions; and a chemical manufacturer has lately received a very large order for nitric acid from the same source.

Seven years ago Gun-cotton underwent a few experiments at Woolwich; but, by the help of the united interests of the gunpowder manufacturers, it was suppressed in the act of birth. Seven years' experience of it, and on a large scale, have satisfied me, as it has many others, that it possesses an enormous advantage over gunpowder (as great indeed as our present system of artillery will bear) and very few of its defects.

A 12-pounder gun loaded with Gun-cotton weighing one-half the usual charge of powder produces the effect usually attributed to an 18-pounder; and the increase of range obtained by its use will soon, if this war goes on, create a revolution in all ordnance affairs. With cotton there is no difficulty in arriving at the long-talked-of desideratum of dispensing with a touch-hole, and firing the charge in the very centre by galvanic agency.

I am, &c.,

COTTONENSIS.

THE LUCK OF THE FRENCH MINERS AT SEBASTOPOL.—A correspondent of the *Journal du Loiret*, at the seat of war, states that the French engineers were employed in mining certain portions of ground over which the fortifications of one of the faubourgs of Sebastopol extend. The difficulties of the ground, says the writer of the letter, are immense, but the soldiers do not complain, and they are at times rewarded for their trouble by what they find. It appears that the inhabitants, foreseeing the reduction of the place, had buried many articles of value, which they hoped to be able to dig up again at a future day, when the army should have departed. They, however, did not reckon upon the works of the miners; and every day these men find something of value, in the shape of silver and plated articles, jewels, and costly ornaments, and, among other things, an elegant bonnet, carefully packed in a box. The bonnet is of pink satin, of the first style of fashion, and still bears the address of the maker in the Rue de la Paix, in Paris. This bonnet, after having been tried on by all the men, has since been hung up as an ornament in one of their tents.

ELECTION EXPENSES.—The first return of candidates' expenses under the new Act which has appeared is that relating to the late Canterbury election. The aggregate expense of four out of five of the candidates was £250, which forms an extraordinary contrast with former elections, when the expenses of each candidate were invariably counted in thousands. The auditor's statement is published at length in a Kent paper. From it appears that Sir William Somerville's expenses amounted to £190; Mr. Lushington's, £217; Mr. C. P. Cooper's, £228; Mr. Lennox Butler's, £209. With reference to the fifth candidate, Mr. E. Aechmutz Glover, the auditor significantly remarks:—"The moneys due upon the account of E. A. Glover, Esq., not having been furnished to the auditor, he is unable to publish them." The sheriff's charges were £38 8s 7d. to each candidate; the auditor's expenses were £16; the printing expenses of each candidate ranged from £16 to £40. The election agents' costs, £50, £75, £116, and £52 10s. respectively, and the remainder of the expenses comes under the head of personal expenses, hire of rooms, clerks, and messengers.

WAR OBITUARY.

(Continued from page 623.)

BAYNTON (Captain Benjamin), R.N., lost in the *Prince*, was an old and distinguished seaman. He entered the Navy 3rd November, 1801, and proceeded to the Mediterranean in Lord Nelson's flag-ship, the *Victory*, in which he assisted at the capture of the French frigate, *Ambuscade*. Subsequently, we find him gallantly engaged against the Spaniards, more especially in 1806, when he was instrumental in effecting the capture, after a severe action with three privateers, of the largest, the *Neptuno Dios de los Mares*. In 1808 he contributed to the reduction of the town of Diamante, and the seizure of a flotilla of vessels anchored under its protection, and was present at the defence of the Island of Capri. In 1810 he received the thanks of the patriot General O'Donnell, for his conduct at the storming of a fort, near Palamos, as well as for his services on the coast of Catalonia, where he was present at the defence of Tarragona. In the retreat from Palamos, Captain Baynton was wounded in the thigh by a musket-ball, which was never extracted. The gallant officer was born 17th Sept., 1789, the son of the late Major Benjamin Baynton, of Duncannon Fort. He married 18th January, 1821, Miss Ann Ogilvie, of London, and leaves several children.

MAINE (Lieut. Arthur Francis), of the 77th East Middlesex Regiment, died in the camp of the Light Division before Sebastopol on the 21st ult., of dysentery and intermittent fever, brought on by fatigue and unavoidable exposure in discharging his duties, was the second son of the Rev. J. T. Maine, of Bighton-wood, Hampshire. He was in his twenty-third year. He was educated at Winchester School; gazetted to an Ensigncy in the 77th Regiment on the 18th of February, 1853, and made Lieutenant the 13th of August, 1854. He landed in the Crimea with his regiment, was actively engaged at the battle of Alma, and amongst the outlying pickets at the battle of Inkerman. He was much beloved for his modest and amiable disposition. His Colonel, in announcing his death, says:—"His remains were interred by the side of the Captain of his company (Nicholson), who fell in the hard-fought battle of Inkerman. He was followed to his grave, in front of our lines, and within view of the works of Sebastopol, by his brother officers, to whom he had endeared himself much. During the performance of the funeral service we heard little but the booming of cannon." One of his brother officers writes, "He will be a great loss to all of us; he was most amiable and good-natured, and a general favourite."

OLDHAM (Captain John Augustin), 13th Light Dragoons, was killed whilst gallantly leading on his regiment, in the disastrous cavalry engagement at Balaklava, on the 25th of October. He was the son of Lieutenant-Colonel Oldham, of the 8th Royal Veteran Battalion, who was severely wounded ascending the heights of Pallouira, in Calabria, against a strongly-posted enemy; and grandson of the late Captain Oldham, of the 62nd Regiment, who met an early death during an insurrection in one of the West Indian islands; he was also brother of the late Captain William Joseph Oldham, of the 2nd or Queen's Royal Regiment, who fell, bravely fighting, at the Cape on the 9th September, 1851.

POWELL (Charles Thomas), Major in the 49th Regiment, killed in the trenches before Sebastopol, on the morning of the 28th October, served in the Crimea campaign, under General Sir Charles Napier, as Lieutenant in her Majesty's 22nd Regiment; was at the battles of Mecenee and Hyderabad, and at the taking of the Fort Imaumghur. Major Powell was the eighth son of the late John Felliott Powell, Esq., some time of Sandy Brook, co. Derby, and afterwards of Leamington, and grandson of Richard Powell, Esq., of Stanedge Park, Radnorshire, who married the eldest daughter of the last Lord Felliott, of the Irish Peerage; and, on the maternal side, was related to the Scotts, of Great Barr, Staffordshire; the Adderleys, of Hams Hall, Warwickshire; and other distinguished families. His Colonel, Brigadier-General (now Major-General) Adams, in communicating to his family the intelligence of their loss, spoke of Major Powell in the following terms:—"He was an officer of the highest class, and one that, had it pleased the Almighty to have spared his life, must, by his bravery and talent, have proved a great commander." In acknowledgment of Major Powell's services, the Commander-in-Chief has appointed a nephew of the deceased to an Ensigncy, without purchase, in his late uncle's regiment (the 49th).

RICHARDS (Captain Edwin), of the 41st Regiment, killed at Inkerman, was eldest son of Captain Edwin Richards, R.N., of Ravendon House, county Carlow, an old and distinguished naval officer of the late war.

THISTLETHWAYTE (Lieutenant Arthur Henry), Ensign and Lieutenant Scots Fusilier Guards, son of the late Thomas Thistlethwayte, Esq., of Southwick Park, Hants, by his second wife, Tryphena, daughter of the late Henry Bathurst, Lord Bishop of Norwich, by his wife, Grace, sister of Charles Henry, Lord Castlecoote. Lieut. Thistlethwayte distinguished himself by his bravery at the battle of the Alma, where he carried the colours of his regiment, which were pierced by innumerable bullets. After having suffered from a severe attack of cholera, he retired for a short period on board ship, but returned to the Camp in time to share in the dangers of the memorable battle of Inkerman. He had been promoted to his position as Captain, and was on his way home in the *Rip Van Winkle*, when the vessel was wrecked, and he and Colonel Walker were the only survivors. Lieut. Thistlethwayte died on the 26th November, in Scutari Hospital, from the effects of exhaustion, produced by dysentery and low fever. He was brother-in-law to Lieut.-Colonel Pakenham, who was killed at the battle of Inkerman.

WILLIAMS (Captain Samuel Toosey), of the Scots Greys, died on the 23rd ult., at Constantinople, where he had been conveyed from Balaklava. The origin of his illness was low fever—the result of exposure, privation, and excessive fatigue, prior and subsequently to the battle of Balaklava, at which he gallantly led the second squadron of the Scots Greys, on the memorable 25th October. A gallant soldier, a kind-hearted friend, and a popular companion, Captain Williams died deeply lamented. He was eldest son of B. B. Williams, Esq., of Buscot Park, Berks, and of Westbourne-terrace, London. He had not completed his thirty-second year, and yet had been more than fourteen years in the Army, his commission of Cornet bearing date 26th June, 1840.

* * * Through an error of the press, the name of Lieutenant-Colonel Dacres was placed in the War Obituary. We are very happy to correct this error, and to state that this gallant and able officer is living, and, we trust, will soon be able to continue his valuable services in his country's cause.

It is Captain Charles Butler, at present in India, who married Miss Prosser, and not his brother (Captain Henry T. Butler), who fell at Inkerman. The latter gallant and lamented officer was married, on the 18th July, 1839, in St. John's Church, Secunderabad, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the Rev. William Tomes, Chaplain of a Station in the H.E.I.C. service. Mrs. Henry T. Butler, who survives her husband, is also niece of the Rev. Charles Forster, Rector of Stisted, Braintree, Essex.

IMPROVEMENTS IN PROPELLING AND NAVIGATING STEAM-VESSELS.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

THE painful account given in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of the 16th inst. of the loss of lives and steam-vessels on the coast of the Crimea on the 14th ult., induces us to urge attention to our improvements in propelling and navigating steam-vessels, confident that they will prove of the greatest importance to all concerned in steam navigation. The arrangements are adapted for every class of vessels, for war or commerce—for yachts, for river navigation, canals, or where a light draught of water is required. The finest form of hull may be given, and vessels rigged in the best way for sailing. A greater speed is attained with the same amount of steam power, than by either paddle-wheels or screw. Sailing and steam power may be favourably combined. The steam-engine is never reversed, or made to go slow either ahead or astern. All the movements required, are done by the seamen on the deck, without any change being made on the engine, or communicating with those attending it. The full power of the engine is always available for every movement necessary; and, in avoiding danger from collision, or other sources, the vessel may be instantly backed, or stopped within a very short distance. The engines are not affected by the rolling or plunging of the vessel in a heavy sea—there not being any reaction on them, as by the paddle-wheels and screw. As the propelling power can be applied exclusively to either side of the vessel, the too near approach to a lee-shore may always be avoided. The vessel is also independent of the rudder, and may be navigated without it, if damaged or lost. These are some of the important advantages to be derived from adopting our improvements; and we are confident that both lives and property would be rendered much more safe by their use.

Edinburgh. J. and M. W. RUTHVEN, Engineers.

Among the contributions to the Patriotic Fund are offers by several gentlemen and ladies to educate orphans till they have attained a certain age.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC

The last news respecting the health of the Empress of Russia is unsatisfactory, a dysentery having declared itself, which there has been no other way of stopping but by opium.

Sir De Lacy Evans had an interview with the Emperor of the French on Saturday last.

The coronation of the Emperor of Austria is to take place in March. Orders have been received for the purpose by several jewellers.

The *Vienna Presse* is said to have been suspended, on account of an article directed against Lord John Russell.

The Emperor of Austria has authorised M. Franzini, a refugee, to return to Lombardy. The sequestration laid on his property is taken off.

Marshal Narvaez, who has been residing for some time at Orleans, is about to quit that place to fix his residence at Paris.

Miss Stanley, daughter of the late Bishop of Norwich, sailed last week with additional nurses for the East, to reinforce the corps under the direction of Miss Nightingale.

The Duke and Duchess of Brabant arrived at Vienna on Christmas-day. The Emperor received them at the railway station, and accompanied them to the palace, where their Royal Highnesses had an interview with the Empress.

It is reported in Vienna that the Emperor Napoleon has conferred on the Emperor Francis Joseph, the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour.

Mr. Brodie, of Aberdeen, has sold his statue of Corinne for £500.

The Emperor of the French has given 40,000*fr.* to make a promenade by the sea side at Biarritz, the watering-place where the Empress stayed so long last season.

There are now three vacant seats in the French Academy, caused by the deaths of M.M. Ancelot, St. Aulaire, and Baur-Lormain.

It has been determined by the Bar on the Oxford Circuit to place the bust of Mr. Justice Talfourd in the Crown Court at Stafford.

Colonel Céard, son of the celebrated engineer who directed the works of the road of the Simplon, has been named Chevalier in the Legion of Honour.

The Duke of Saxe-Weimar is restoring the ancient castle of Wartburg, an edifice closely connected with the House of Saxe. The restorations include the parmaen, owned by Elizabeth of Hungary, the Hall of the Minnebergers, and the apartment where Luther worked on his translation of the Bible.

Alexander Oswald, Esq., of Auchencruive, has purchased the estate of Drongan, in the parish of Stair, for £45,000. The lands are understood to contain a large field of coal, and probably ironstone.

The "Flight into Egypt," the new oratorio by M. Berlioz, was produced the other day in Paris with so much success, that a second performance of it was announced for Christmas-eve.

Dumfries papers mention the death of Miss Kirkpatrick, in her 89th year. She was aunt to the Countess de Montijo, and grand-aunt to the Empress of the French and to the Duke de Berwick and Alba.

Switzerland has hitherto been represented at Vienna by a provisional Chargé d'Affaires; but it is said that, at the commencement of 1855, Colonel Ochsenbein, ex-Military Director, will proceed to the Austrian capital as permanent Chargé d'Affaires.

Mr. Digby Seymour, M.P., is appointed Recorder of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The Prince Bishop Wolff of Laybach, who, on the 15th inst., celebrated the jubilee of his fifty years' ministry, appropriated the sum of 15,000 florins to the printing of a new large Slavonic dictionary.

The French artists are working hard for the Exhibition of next year. M. Jerome has an "Apotheosis of Augustus" in hand; Yvon, a "Retreat from Moscow;" Couture, a "Carnival Supper Scene;" Scheffer, a "Christ Tempted by Satan."

Peter Mathieson, for nearly thirty years coachman to Sir Walter Scott, died last week at Abbotsford, at the age of eighty-four. He had been a great favourite of his master, and had shared the ups and downs of his fortune.

The Cardinal of Bordeaux has organised a collection of Bordeaux wine for convalescent soldiers; he has himself contributed 600 bottles of fine old wine.

At the sale of the late Baron de Meilemburg's collection of pictures, in Paris, the crowd of amateurs was so great after the first five minutes, that it was impossible to enter the room. A landscape by Hobbema fetched 80,000 francs; the "Horse Market," by Wouvermans, 72,000 francs, and a landscape by Both, 28,500 francs.

A committee of photographers and antiquaries has been named to promote a testimonial to Dr. Diamond, as some acknowledgment of public gratitude for the eminent services rendered by this photographer to an interesting art.

The Spanish Government has not accepted the proposition made by the English Ambassador, to proclaim the Slave-trade piracy, but it has given orders for the strict execution of the conventions already existing with England on that subject.

A nugget of gold, weighing three pounds and a half, was lately taken out of the Hornitas Creek, Mariposa County, California.

A prize of one hundred pounds has been offered by the Council of the Evangelical Alliance for the best essay on the Sabbath, to be written with a special view to circulation among the higher classes of the community.

The cost of the American ocean mail packet service is £400,000 a year.

Five propellers were frozen in at Cleveland, on Lake Erie, when the steamer left New York on the 13th; and the propeller *Baltic*, which had been compelled to return, reported solid ice as far as could be seen.

The Cunard and Collins steamers are now so arranged to ply between this country and America, that there will be a regular weekly communication.

During the past season California has produced the astonishing yield—in one instance, at least—of 82½ bushels of wheat to the acre. In England, under the most perfect system of cultivation, we seldom reach as high as 60 bushels to the acre.

In consequence of the circulation of a statement that the Emperor of France is about to decree a reduction of 50 per cent in the duties on tallow, cocoa-nut oil, and greases, an advance in cocoa-nut oil has taken place of about £1 per ton.

The *Corriere Italiano* says the Allied Generals have hit upon a plan for throwing a strong light upon the fortifications of Sebastopol, by means of electricity, while the positions of the besieging armies will be shrouded in darkness.

The Manchester Exhibition of Pictures was open seventy-two days at 1*s.*, and there were 6086 admissions; six days at 6*d.*, 1050 ditto; and thirty evenings at 2*d.*, 21,249 ditto.

The *Salut Public*, of Lyons, states that one of the most adroit barbers of that city lately made a bet that he would shave 50 persons in an hour. He was, however, only able to get through 32.

A motion had been made in the Second Prussian Chamber, praying the Government to take measures with Denmark for the abolition of the Sound duties.

The French soldiers now in Gloucester have been entertained at a public banquet, at which the *entente cordiale* was pleasantly sustained.

Letters are conveyed now between New York and Port Phillip in Australia, Havana, and Nassau, and between New Orleans and Havana, for an ocean postage rate of one penny the half-ounce. Newspapers are conveyed between those places at one farthing each, and pamphlets and magazines for one half-farthing an ounce.

In Prussia the post service is suspended on Sundays. The Chambers of Commerce of Berlin, Elbing, Tilsit, Königsberg, and other towns, addressed a petition to the Government, praying that the post-offices may be obliged to perform their service on the Sundays and fête-days.

The snow on the Appenines and the adjoining country was so deep on the 19th, that it took the last railway-train from Genoa, with three engines, two hours to go a distance of little more than a league, and had to stop at the Terravalle station until the snow could be cleared from the rails.

The graduates of Edinburgh University propose to form an association to include all those who have taken degrees in the College, either in medicine or in arts. By this means the distinguished alumni of the University would be kept in connection with it.

A trip to Honolulu is getting quite the fashion in San Francisco; going down and stopping there a fortnight, amid the bananas, oranges, and pine-apples, paying a visit to the volcanoes and other natural curiosities, and then returning back to business, refreshed in health and spirits, after an agreeable sojourn in the beautiful tropical climate of the Sandwich Islands, and an absence of little over a month.

Upon a farm, the property of Mr. John Orford, near Ipswich, several foundation walls have been uncovered, which appear to have belonged to a Roman villa, and a considerable portion of tessellated pavement still remaining proves the certainty of this conjecture.

The Porte has recompensed the Jews of Moldavia for the loyalty which they have always shown. All the Jews whom the Russians had incorporated by force in the Moldavian militia have been liberated, and have had a part of their taxes remitted.

THE BATTLE OF INKERMAN.

(FROM A SERGEANT OF ARTILLERY.)

Hospital, Scutari, Nov. 25.

Dear Brother,—Before you receive this letter you will no doubt have heard of my having been wounded at the battle of Inkerman. At day-break on the morning of the 5th of November a strong army of Russians, said to have lately arrived from Odessa, made an attack on our Division (the Second), and commenced by firing shot and shell into our camp, which proceeding rather took us by surprise. We immediately turned out, and advanced to meet them, and when we came into action we gave it to them very smart. Our battery took up a position on a hill in front of Sebastopol where we fired away the whole of our ammunition, the shot and shell from the enemy coming thick among us, also plenty of musket-balls. The Russians advanced in large columns towards us, and when within about forty yards from our guns we opened our fire with canister upon them, which mowed them down in sections. They then turned, but very soon after advanced again upon us. We still continued firing canister at them until our ammunition was expended. We then got the order to climb up; but the enemy made a rush on our guns; the detachments made off (leaving the guns), with the exception of myself and one gunner belonging to my detachment. He and I tried to get the gun away, but the Russians surrounded us. The gunner and I then drew our swords and tried to defend ourselves; but, unfortunately, our swords were too short for the long muskets of the enemy. I threw a number of them off with my left arm, but was soon knocked down, and bayoneted in twelve different places. I received one in the chest, which bent me double, breaking a small bone in that locality. This wound I received before I fell. The others were in the following parts of my body, &c.:—Three in the left arm, three in the right thigh, two in the back, one in the right ribs, and two in the head. They certainly left me for dead. It was God's mercy that the savages had no ammunition, or they would, no doubt, have settled the account with my comrade and myself in a more expeditious way. However, they did not get the guns away with them, after all, as the French came to our assistance and compelled them to retire.

I lay on the ground for an hour before I was carried to the rear, the blood gushing out of my wounds. The doctor came and sewed them up, which stopped their bleeding. My breathing became very short, through the broken bone in my chest, which the doctor said touched my lungs. He also told me to prepare for the next world, as he thought I could not possibly get over it. I suffered greatly, and for six days I could not either eat anything nor turn myself on my blanket; but, after that I began to recover, every day gaining strength, and my wounds healing. I am now, thank God, able to walk about, and my breast-bone has knitted and will soon be all right again; and I hope to be able to rejoin my battery, and assist in giving the Russians another good drubbing.

Our battery was greatly cut up on the 5th. It was a dreadful engagement, and lasted all day, and was much more severe than the battle of the Alma; that being my first, I thought it bad enough. We had two men killed and 13 wounded in the battery, and I believe about 30 horses. Several wheels and limber boxes were broken by the shot from the enemy's batteries. The gunner who was wounded with me at the gun has died since. This is the third battle I have been in since I arrived in the Crimea, and escaped in all except the last one.

Captain Turner came to me at night, after Inkerman, and praised me for my brave conduct, and promised that I should not be forgotten; so I expect you will hear something official about me. This alone gave me great consolation, to think I had given so much satisfaction in the performance of my duty.

ANDREW HENRY, Sergeant R.A.

REDUCTION OF FRENCH POSTAGE.—A new postal treaty has been entered into with France. There will be a reduction of postage upon paid letters weighing not more than 102. (a weight which includes the great majority) to 4d. instead of 8d. or 10d. as heretofore. This reduced postage of 4d. will carry the letter from any part of the United Kingdom to any part of France or Algeria. If the letter be posted unpaid, the charge will be double. The new treaty comes into operation on the 1st of January.

CIRCULATION OF THE PARIS NEWSPAPERS.—The *Presse* of Tuesday publishes from authentic returns the circulation of the daily Paris journals. It is as follows:—*Presse*, 41,000; *Sicile*, 36,000; *Constitutionnel*, 26,000; *Pays*, 16,000; *Patrie*, 15,000; *Debats*, 9,000; *Univers*, 6,000; *Assemblée Nationale*, 5,000; *Union*, 4,000; *Gazette de France*, 3,000. Total per day, 161,000, of which the two journals which represent the Moderate Republican party stand for 77,000. Their success, however, is not due to their being known to have Republican sentiments, but to the fact of their being considered Opposition journals.

ON THE NEW BANK OF ENGLAND NOTE, AND THE SUBSTITUTION OF SURFACE PRINTING FROM ELECTRO-TYPE FOR COPPER-PLATE PRINTING.

On the 20th inst., a very interesting paper upon the above subjects was read before the Society of Arts by Mr. Alfred Smee, F.R.S.; Mr. Henry Cole, C.B., Vice-President in the chair. The Society's large room was crowded with an attentive audience. Of Mr. Smee's paper, the most attractive contribution of the season, the following is an abstract:—

In the month of November, 1851, I had the honour of presenting a report to Mr. Hankey, the Governor of the Bank of England at that period, that from facts and observations which had come under my notice, I believed that the time had arrived when surface-printing from electrotypes could be advantageously employed for Bank of England notes, and that they could be both printed and numbered by ordinary printing-presses, with considerable saving of expense and increased identity of appearance.

Heretofore the notes and cheques of the Bank of England had invariably been printed from copper and steel plates, in which the lines were engraved or cut into the metal. In these hollows the printers rubbed the ink, which in process of printing, was transferred from the plate to the paper. In surface-printing the reverse state of things exists, and the design, instead of being cut in the plate, is left in relief, and the ink being put to the embossments by means of the rollers, is transferred in the press to the paper to form the impression.

In accordance with this report, Mr. Hankey at once directed the experiments to be commenced, and subsequently allowed me to act with Mr. Hensman, the Engineer, and Mr. Coe, the Superintendent of Printing; and though each of us had our separate departments in which our individual labour and knowledge was most useful, we consulted together on every matter, and by our mutual exertions, acting together to one end for the benefit of the Bank, we have been enabled to overcome every difficulty, and to bring the process into practical operation for all the manifold varieties of cheques and notes which the Bank of England requires for its purposes.

The original form or pattern of the various notes and cheques which have been adopted was accomplished and settled under the direction of Mr. Hankey, and the Court of Directors, before any of us commenced our labours.

The whole of the written part of the note was originally cut by Mr. Beckett, the engraver to the establishment, but the Britannia was designed by Mr. Maclellan, E.A., and engraved by Robinson. This engraving was the basis of our operations. After various experiments the cutting of the Britannia in a manner suitable for easy duplication was executed on a steel die, by that veteran engraver Mr. Thompson, whose artistic feeling is fully recognised by the public. The other parts of the notes and cheques were in a great measure cut by Mr. Solving, in some cases upon pieces of brass, in others on plates of copper, about half an inch in thickness. In no case is the original ever employed for printing, but is simply used to make moulds, so that, throwing out of consideration accidental mechanical or chemical injuries, they will retain their integrity for any length of time without change, and will enable any number of duplicates to be made therefrom.

For the duplication of the original designs, we have recourse to the power afforded us by the processes of electro-metallurgy. For the purposes of the Bank of England, we have had recourse to the various forms of battery apparatus described by myself in the *Philosophical Magazine*, and in my "Elements of Electro-Metallurgy."

To ascertain the changes which are occurring in the battery we commonly employ an hydrometer; but I have specially constructed an instrument which I call a battery meter. The point corresponding to specific gravity, 1180, is called unity, and the interval between that part and 1360 is divided into 144 parts. By this division every degree represents one grain of zinc dissolved in 1000 grains of bulk of the fluid. The opposite side of the scale, between the same parts, is divided into 60 parts, each of which is, for every 1000 grains of bulk in the fluid, about one thousandth of an inch in the thickness for every superficial inch of surface, upon which the copper is reduced in the precipitating-trough.

At the Bank of England we generally find it convenient to employ parallelepiped-shaped vessels. Those made of mahogany, and lined with gutta-percha, are convenient and economical. For most of our purposes, we use the vertical trough, because the subject can be readily inserted and removed for inspection. For rapid deposition we employ the horizontal trough, in which the subject is placed at the bottom, and

the copper pole above. In the use of this apparatus some refined chemical laws are involved. In the first place, sulphate of copper possesses a low diffusive power, and is carried, by virtue of that property, so slowly through the fluid, that if we relied upon its failure would surely attend our labour. Secondly, the saturated solution of sulphate of copper formed at the positive pole is so heavy that it descends from the place of its formation like a cataract to the bottom of the vessel. Lastly, the part of the solution deprived of its copper, becomes so light that it rapidly rises to the top. For all rapid deposition we seek to form our new salt at the top of the apparatus, that it may descend to the place where it is required, and the light fluid may rise to mix with the denser portion.

Up to the present time the best standard salt for the reduction of copper by electro-metallurgy, is the sulphate; and, with the occasional exception of the nitrate, is invariably employed. We always have a neutral trough containing a simple solution, three parts saturated. For general purposes we use a saturated solution diluted with dilute sulphuric acid of battery strength, to the extent of from one-half to one-third of the bulk.

If we examine the precipitating trough we can but regard it as a very curious and wonderful chemical laboratory, in which two processes are being conducted at the same time, and in precisely equivalent proportions. In it we have the best of all chemical factories for the production of sulphate of copper by the combination of the plate of copper with the acid of the salt, and in it we may perceive the most perfect of all foundries wherein the metal is cast upon the mould atom by atom, with a skill which rather shows the perfection of nature than the deficiencies of the operations of man.

As a general rule, we employ a single battery with one trough. Where we desire rapid action, we employ a compound battery of two cells in series; but this entails a double cost of battery power. In a great many cases, where time is of no object, we employ a compound trough with a single battery; that is to say, we arrange two troughs in series with one battery—a contrivance whereby we use our battery power twice over, and obtain two equivalents of copper, one in each trough, and consequently at half the cost.

The deposited metal is of excellent quality, and a part of one of the Britannias when carefully weighed, was found to have a specific gravity of 8.85. To ascertain the ductibility of the metal, I sent one of the scraps to Messrs. Horne and Thornthwaite, and one pound of metal was found capable of being drawn into three miles and a half of wire.

For all our other originals, when we desire perfection, we rely upon electro-moulds, and electro-moulds alone. For this purpose the original is placed in the precipitating trough, and a thick electro-mould deposited.

The casts of the Britannia are generally deposited so thick in the compound trough that they can be turned down to the required form and size. Other subjects are generally backed with solder, and turned to their proper thickness.

The electro casts, when ready for printing, are mounted on solid brass blocks; and many tools had to be constructed for this purpose. By this system of tools, if any part of a form is damaged another piece is immediately inserted.

When the paper is dried it is moderately glazed, to give a smooth surface for printing. The smoothness is given by placing the sheets of paper between plates of copper, and subjecting them to a pressure sufficient on the one hand to give a due and true surface, and yet not sufficient on the other to damage the water-mark.

The printing-ink used for the Bank-note is also a matter which has received attention. The properties of ink, when carefully prepared, are very curious, and require considerable judgment to adjust them to particular papers. To Mr. Winstone, the printing-ink manufacturer, has been intrusted the preparation and adaptation of the ink for the note, as it required somewhat careful treatment for the peculiar arrangement of the blocks and lights in the note.

For the cheques it was considered that the double-platen was the best machine, which was in active operation at that time. For that reason a machine by Hopkinson and Cope was adopted, and the cheques were printed by it, as also some of the notes.

For the Bank-note a new platten has been specially constructed by Messrs. Napier and Son, with contrivances for both the tables and the inking apparatus to traverse, by which means an effect is produced equivalent to rolling with a single hand-roller twenty different times. In this machine a plan of great value is employed, as the form of every note is made to one gauge, and every denomination has its separate tympan and overlaying. By these means, when a note-plate is once made ready for press with its overlaying, it is always ready at a moment's notice, without further preparation, for taking impressions. Counting-machines are appended to each end of the machine, that no impression can be taken without being registered; and when 100 impressions are printed, a bell strikes, to call attention to the fact. In Napier's machines 3000 notes are printed per hour; and two boys are required to feed with paper, and two to take off the printed notes.

After the note is printed, as a part of the system, it was proposed that it should be numbered and dated at the ordinary machines instead of the Bramah's machine heretofore employed. These machines are also double, requiring two boys to feed and two to take off. By this working the note is completed, and handed over to the cashier, to be examined and counted. By this part of the system the note is decidedly superior to that of the old, the printing by the new process being very much improved as a mere question of printing.

When the form is arranged in the printing-machines, the first act of the printer is to obtain a perfectly level impression, equal in tint at every part, which is accomplished by filling the back of the blocks wherever he finds any elevation exists. This may be called a general picture, which possesses the general appearance, but without the lights and shades which give beauty and excellence to the impression. When the general picture is obtained to the parties' satisfaction, four impressions are taken upon thin paper, and according to the gradations of tint required, the impression is cut away, so that in one place no thickness exists, in others one, two, three, or all the thicknesses remain. For the darkest portion the four thicknesses are left, for the lighter none are allowed, and for the intermediate tints two or three thicknesses are left. The whole are then pasted together and placed over the electrotypes, and by the contrivance of the overlaying, those parts which are desired to be darkest get the heaviest pinch, those parts required to be of a lighter tint are the least heavily pressed, and in this way the impression is in a great measure brought to perfection.

The time has long since passed away when scientific men would think of attempting to devise an imitable note. A note to be imitable must be made with a skill superior to the power of imitation of all men. The doctrine of imitability should be buried with that of the philosopher's stone and the elixir of life; nevertheless, certain properties are demanded by the mercantile community whereby a man may readily determine a good note. In this matter constancy of appearance is of paramount importance, and in this particular the new surface-note stands pre-eminent. As far as the protection of the Bank is concerned, imitability is not required, as the Bank is never at a loss to detect a forged impression, be it executed ever so skillfully; and the system pursued by the Bank is so perfect, that no forged note ever has escaped eventual detection.

The doctrine even of difficult imitation is one which must be studied by physiological principles, and must be considered in reference to the faculties of the eye and the properties of the mind. From such causes it is found by long experience that any extraordinary complexity is not only useless, but delusive and dangerous, from leading the mind into details which cannot be successfully appreciated.

In speaking of identity, there is also another property of the eye to be considered, for although there can hardly be any such thing as absolute identity or likeness between any two objects, yet any objects which do not differ more than four seconds will appear alike to unaided vision; though with the microscope great differences may be discernible. Whenever, then, throughout this paper I speak of identity, I refer to the identity observable by the unaided sight, and after all it is but a rough comparative identity, a mere vision of identity when examined in a philosophical point of view. As far as the public is concerned, nothing can exceed the value of a uniform appearance; this the new note affords in the highest degree. Day after day, and year after year, the character of the paper will not vary. The same signature of "M. Marshall" which appears in the paper of one note will be repeated in the next. The same wave lines, the same rough edges on three sides, the same shadows in the water mark will be brought continually before the sight. The Britannia will have the same expression of countenance, and will be repeated line for line, and dot for dot, for millions of impressions unchanged and apparently unchangeable. The very weight of the paper does not vary above two or three grains, unless damaged by wear, and the colour of the ink will be maintained as far as possible.

Bank-notes are perhaps as little or less liable to be falsified than most other human inventions, in consequence of the certainty of the eventual detection of the fraud, and the great risk of punishment from the care and vigilance employed to trace out delinquents.

For extensive production and uniformity of expression, surface-

printing stands pre-eminently as the master. Although the daily production of the *Times*, and the weekly production of the *ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS* may justly be termed the typographical wonders of the world, yet the care bestowed upon the note to render its unlimited duplication perfect, has a tendency to materially influence the printing art in this department in a beneficial manner.

We are all too apt to think that art will stop at our point, and not progress; but it is the property of invention ever to move forward. The point at which we have arrived must be the step from which future improvements must spring; and, proceeding step by step, the highest possible excellence will doubtless eventually be secured.

There are certain characteristics which are common to the whole class of Bank of England Notes, which should be known to all the world. In the first place, every note has three of the natural edges of the paper, and one cut edge. In the centre of each note is a water-mark, composed of wavy lines; and the words "Bank of England" are inserted in the substance of the paper at the lower and upper portion; and a fac-simile of the autograph of Matthew Marshall, the esteemed Chief Cashier of the corporation. The Britannia is printed on notes of all denominations; and all notes have the words, "I promise to pay the bearer on demand."

The entire class of Bank-notes include twelve genera, as each of the eleven branch establishments issue notes with the town upon it—as Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle, Leicester, Bristol, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Hull, Swansea—and these, with London, form twelve establishments issuing notes.

Each genus comprises several species, as notes are of several designations. Thus, in London, nine notes are issued—25, 10, 5, 100, 200, 500, and 1000 notes. In every branch notes are issued up to 100; and at the two important commercial towns of Liverpool and Manchester notes of 500 are issued in addition. In every genus of note the denomination up to 250 is placed in the water-mark in letters and twice in shaded figures.

Every species of note is made of innumerable individuals, each of which has an individuality as distinct and determinate for a Bank-note as the individuality which characterises every human being; and also characteristics as marked in the eyes of the Bank, to distinguish one from another, and no more likely to be mistaken than our chairman is likely to be mistaken by you for our secretary, even when you are so perfectly familiar with their likenesses. This individuality is given by a number and date being added to the denomination. The number is of no use alone, the date is of no use alone, but the number, date, and denomination together conjointly mark the specific individual; and any person having these particulars can learn at the Bank to whom the note was issued, and when it was issued, the date of its return to the Bank, and the person to whom money was paid for it, with many other matters of its pedigree and family history, which are only objects of interest to its mother, the Old Lady of Threadneedle-street.

It is not generally known to the public that there are letters preceding the numbers on every note, and which with the number, tells the whole story of the note. Therefore, if the public will but take down the letters and numbers, they can learn every other particular on applying to the Bank.

To give an idea of the extent of our operations, I find, on casting them up, that there are sixty-six kinds of Bank-notes, and about fifty varieties of cheques, which had to be prepared. Besides these, there are twenty-five kinds of Bank-bills, issued from eleven different places, independently of sixty day-bills, and various matters which would not be interesting to the meeting, further than to show that the Bank has not merely adopted surface printing to a Bank-note, but to all similar documents of a similar character which they require.

If we examine forms of notes printed by typography, we shall observe that the note of the Bank of France and the Belgian note are so produced; but in these cases the character of the note is adapted to the style of printing; and even there the number printed is so small as to appear insignificant when compared with the number issued by the Bank of England. At the former establishment about 300 impressions are printed every day; at the latter, nearly 30,000 are produced—as 9,000,000 notes are issued per annum, representing nearly £300,000,000.

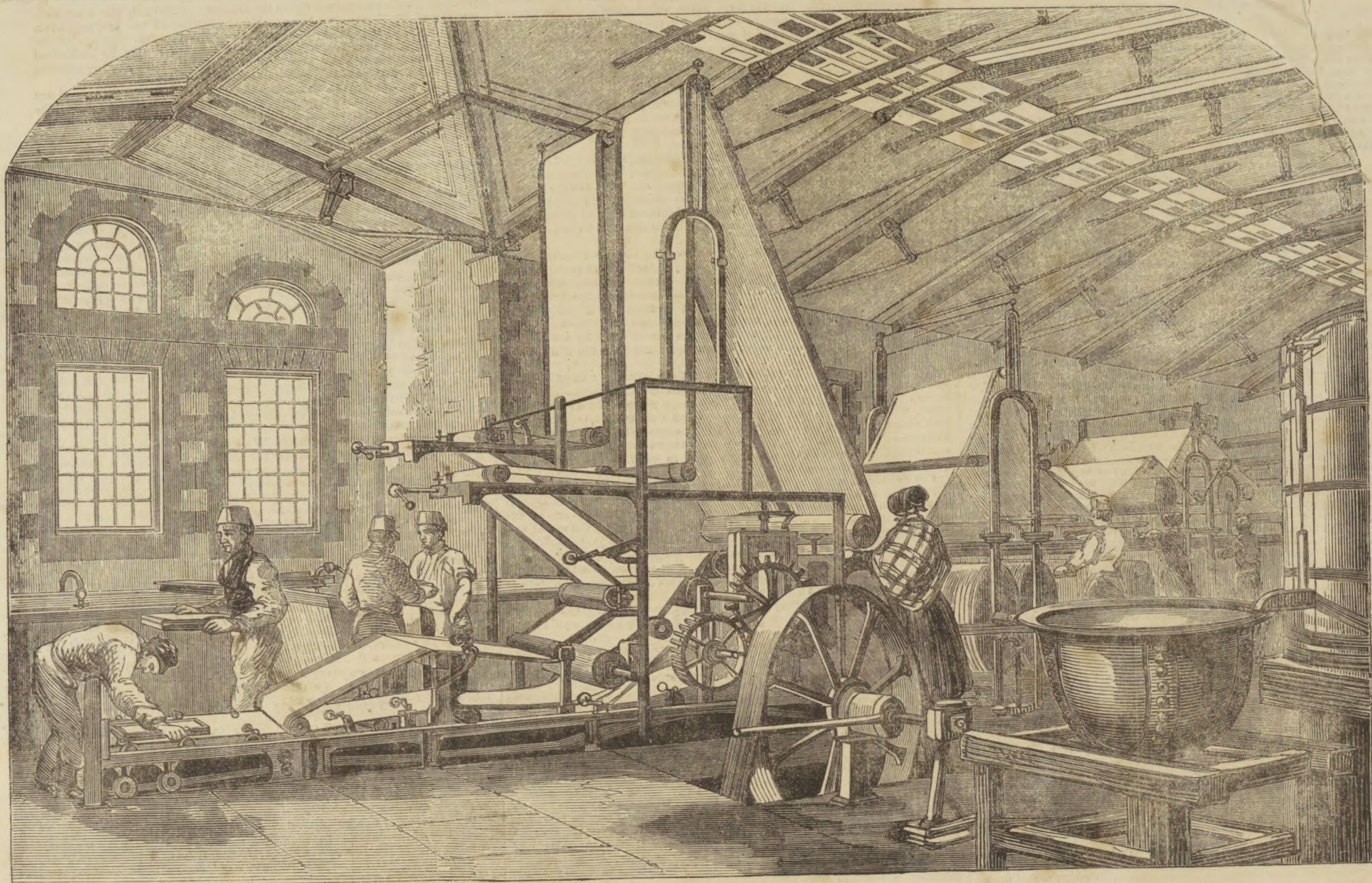
If we examine the note through its different stages, we cannot help being struck with astonishment at the care which has been taken to protect the public from imposition. In the manufacture of the paper every sheet must be accounted for, and the Legislature has wisely provided that no person, under the pain of transportation, may manufacture, sell, or expose for sale, paper with the words "Bank of England" in its substance, or any curve bar lines, or any denomination in writing. When it is received in the Bank it is again counted and arranged by a decimal system, under the care of the Treasurer, before it is stowed away. When issued to the printer, the same number must be handed over to the Treasurer; and when it receives its final imprint, and is converted into the representative of money, it is received by the Cashier, who again examines and counts the number. These perfect notes are deposited in a place of security till life is given to them by being carried as a credit into the Bank books. When it passes into the hands of the public, it is amenable to laws which are known to the authorities of the Bank. Each denomination has a different average duration of life, like individuals in different cities, and some are never heard of again, like people who go to foreign lands, and their fate ever remains unknown. When the note returns to the Bank, after inspection, it dies, never to be resuscitated. The signature is torn off, the denominations are punched out, and it becomes a piece of waste paper. The registry of its death is taken by a system devised by my brother Mr. William Smee. This system, which is remarkable for its simplicity and rapidity of execution, has been in use with great success for many years, and those who are partial to the details of scientific book-keeping, will discover many devices of interest, but which it is foreign to the purposes of my paper to consider in detail. After the death of the note is registered, it is then deposited in the vaults for reference for ten years, when it is burnt. The object of retaining the notes for so long a period is exclusively for the accommodation of the public, for although such a course entails a very considerable cost to the Bank, yet the value of the information which is daily being supplied from this cause, shows the importance of it to the monetary community. It is not an easy matter to utterly destroy so large a number of notes as those which are issued by the Bank. Experiments have been tried to reduce them again to pulp, but they have never altogether succeeded, and no plan answers so well as their destruction by fire. A large iron cage is built in the middle of the yard, including a light brick furnace pierced with holes. In this cage the notes are placed and burnt by sackfalls at a time, and nothing is left but a little white ash. Formerly the paper was coloured with smelt, and this was left at the bottom of the furnace as a curious blue mass. The same care which is taken in the manufacture of the paper, and in its transition through its various stages, is maintained to its final destruction; so that, from the linen-pulp to the cinder, no person can become possessed of a single sheet without committing a felony, immediately liable to detection. As the final result of the changes Bank-notes undergo, I am enabled to show you a piece of the blue ash, a portion of the white ash, and a curious mass resembling peat, which arose from the conversion of a number of Bank-notes into a peculiar substance from years of exposure to wet and pressure.

A vote of thanks was then voted to Mr. Smee for his very valuable paper; and a vote was also given to the Governor and Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England, for their kind liberality in allowing the specimens to be exhibited, and the process to be detailed.

THE MILL

The Bank-note Mills, the property of Mr. Wyndham Portal, are situated in the parish of Laverstoke, in Hampshire, in the picturesque valley of the Test. This is a limpid stream, rising about three miles above the mills, thence running by Stockbridge (famous for its fishing club), and flowing through Lord Palmerston's property at Broadlands, near Romsey, finally discharges itself into the Southampton Water. The waters of the Test abound with fine trout.

The first Bank-note paper ever issued was made in these Mills, in about the year 1719, and it has ever since been produced on the same premises. From an analysis lately made by an eminent chemist, it has been ascertained that the water of this river is well adapted for the purposes for which it is required in this establishment. The building, the machinery, and, indeed, the entire premises, have undergone very considerable alterations and improvements of late (in fact, they are not yet brought to completion), in order to adapt them to the perfect execution of the paper used for the new Bank-note, the issue of which is to commence on New-year's-day. The new buildings in which the unique machinery is placed, were erected under the superintendence of Mr. Hellyer, architect, of the Isle of Wight; and, while great care appears to have been taken to provide for every convenience and possible desideratum as regards light, ventilation, and comfort for the workmen, Mr. Hellyer has, at the same time, succeeded in giving to the whole an appearance of beauty and chasteness, which is but seldom to be found in works of a similar character. Although Mr. Portal's engineers (Messrs.



THE BANK-NOTE PAPER-MILL, LAYERSTOKE, HANTS.

Donkin and Co., Manchester) have constructed machinery of the most improved character, and on an extensive scale, for the various departments of Bank-note paper making, upwards of eighty hands are kept in constant employment. The water-wheel (at least the principal one) just erected by Messrs. Donkin, is a turbine—a description of water-wheel but little known, as yet, in this country, though much used and highly appreciated in some parts of the Continent. It is a horizontal wheel, and to it, in this instance, is attached a beautiful contrivance, rendered necessary here by the constantly varying level of the water at the tail of the mill.

These mills are used exclusively for the making of Bank-note paper; and, at the present time, about 50,000 Notes are made daily. The artisans and workpeople live mostly in neat and picturesque cottages adjoining the premises, and are occupants of the same dwellings formerly tenanted by their great-grandfathers.

The quality and the water-mark of the Bank-note paper have in the new Note (now on the point of being issued to the public) been brought to a high degree of excellence. The moulds from which the paper is made are executed by Mr. Brewer, who, with Mr. Smith, patented a very valuable invention, which was rewarded by a medal at the Great Exhibition of 1851. Mr. Brewer is constantly in attendance at the mills, in order that the slightest defect in any of the moulds may be immediately rectified. It is not necessary here, nor, indeed, expedient, to attempt to explain in detail any of the processes that are carried on in the rooms of which sketches are given. Suffice it to say that, in thus improving and endeavouring to perfect the Bank-note paper, the authorities of the Bank have had entirely in view the protection of the public from fraud and loss. "Instead of defending themselves," (said the Rev. J. Barlow, in his lecture at the Royal Institution, on 'a Bank of England Note'), "as is the practice in some

other countries, by secret marks on their paper-money, the substance and printing of which are equally ill-executed, the Bank of England accepts no security which may not be possessed by any one who will make himself acquainted with the following characteristics of the paper and printing." The paper is distinguished by—1. Its colour. 2. Its thinness and transparency. 3. Its characteristic feel. 4. Its watermark. 5. Its three duple (or natural) edges, and one cut (or artificial) edge. 6. Its strength. No observant person can fail to notice the great diminution of forgeries within the last few years—before which time the punishment for such crime was no less than death. May we not hope, and may not the Bank of England derive some satisfaction from the thought, that the abatement of an offence which education was once supposed to promote, may be attributed to the diffusion of useful instruction and information liberally supplied, combined as it generally is, with moral and religious influences.



THE BANK-NOTE PRINTING-ROOM, AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND.